

ANNALS OF IOWA

A HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

JANUARY, 1941



PUBLISHED BY THE
IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

DES MOINES, IOWA

THIRD SERIES

VOL. XXII, No. 7

IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Governor of Iowa
Chief Justice, State Supreme Court
Supt. of Public Instruction

The Iowa State Department of History and Archives solicits the presentation to its museum and various divisions of all and any materials which will help illustrate Iowa's history, past and present. It solicits not alone museum items, but letters, diaries, family histories, and manuscripts of Iowa citizens; it welcomes the reminiscences, the writings and observations of those familiar with important and significant events or movements in the state's history.

In all ways the Department strives to present to the people of Iowa and the nation a true picture of the state. The *Annals of Iowa* is one medium through which the department seeks to gain this objective.

The ANNALS OF IOWA is Published Quarterly in January, April, July and October by the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, at the State Capitol. Subscription Price \$1.00, Per Year. Single Copies \$.25.

All communications concerning contributed articles or subscriptions should be addressed to the Editor.

ANNALS OF IOWA

JANUARY, 1941

Vol. XXII

No. 7

PUBLISHED BY
IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
AND ARCHIVES

ORA WILLIAMS, Curator

ANNALS OF IOWA

ORA WILLIAMS, Editor

KENNETH E. COLTON, Assistant Editor

CONTENTS

JANUARY, 1941

	Page
Alfred John Pearson, An Appreciation.....	515
By F. I. HERRIOTT	
Iowa Pioneer Birds.....	543
By JACK W. MUSGROVE, MARY R. MUSGROVE, AND KENNETH E. COLTON	
Letters of James W. Grimes (Concluded)	556
Editorial Department	
A Historical Museum	589
Accessions	590
Memorial Observances	590
Notable Deaths	592
<i>Illustrations:</i>	
Alfred J. Pearson.....	518

ANNALS OF IOWA

Vol. XXII, No. 7 DES MOINES, IOWA, JANUARY, 1941 THIRD SERIES

ALFRED JOHN PEARSON, AN APPRECIATION

Professor of German Language and Literature

Drake University

1907 — 1939

by

F. I. HERRIOTT

Professor in Drake University

In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength

Isaiah XXX:15

In many ways Dr. Pearson's life was an American Saga of our recent past, a Saga with a truly Scandinavian tune.

Born in Landskrona, Sweden, September 29, 1869, Dr. Alfred J. Pearson died in Des Moines, Iowa, August 10, 1939. While an infant in arms his parents came to the United States, and then, after a sojourn in Illinois, settled in Kansas in 1875. An alumnus of Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, A. B. in 1893, and M. A. in 1896, Pearson received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1896. He was an instructor in German in Upsala College in Kennilworth, New Jersey, 1896-98, and Professor of English and German in Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peters, Minnesota, 1898-1907. From 1907 to the day of his death he was Professor of German Language and Literature in Drake University. Between 1924 and 1930 he was absent on leave in the nation's diplomatic service, first as Minister to Poland, 1924-25, and then to Finland, 1925-1930. He was Dean of the College of Liberal Arts of Drake University from 1930 to his death in 1939.¹

¹What follows was an address delivered on the morning of Thursday, October 19, 1939 in the auditorium of Drake University in the Memorial services for Dr. Pearson. Section III and extended portions of the letters quoted were omitted in the reading.

It is not easy to focus the memories of thirty-two years association with a team-mate in our University complex. Life is a kaleidoscope of incessantly changing and infinitely varicolored relationships—and withal a paradox wherein character, law and order control its infinite variety.

The character and course of Dean Pearson's life among us was notable first as a member of the instructional staff, then as a colleague in the administration of the common affairs of the University, and latterly as Dean of the College—How aptly that character and that career is described in the luminous line of the Hebrew seer, Isaiah, given above, those who knew him know well.

I

In the first years of his service as Professor of German Language and Literature in Drake, Dr. Pearson was not much given in sessions of the Faculty to frequent expression of his views or feelings on controverted matters. He was regular in attendance on committees and at faculty meetings, but he was not forward or effusive in speech, speaking seldom—but his silence was not due to inertia or indifference, for he was alert and keenly observant of the course of discussion and of the significance of proposals and actions. When he did express his views, he was pointed and pithy, hitting the nail and nothing else.

In the ordinary camaraderie of the campus, or corridor or conference room, he was equally reserved, indeed reticent, about his personal interests—be it his business affairs, his family, or his health. Since his death, we have learned that as early as 1934 he was aware of the danger to his health which finally struck him down. But he gave us no hint of its seriousness. He was not one of the social bores or pests who enjoy ill-health and are adepts in publicizing their aches and ailments, seeking sympathy wherewith to feed and sustain an ailing ego. Up to the evening before the ruthless reaper came upon him, he seemed to us a picture of evenly balanced health and vigor and uniform optimism. We so certified our confident opinion of this to the Board of Trustees on April

5, 1939, in a petition signed by the entire instructional staff of our college, asking that he be continued in the office of Dean after his retirement on part time.

In the technique or procedure of education, Dean Pearson was a "conservative" to use the jargon of these days. At least he was not an academic agitator or "reformer" in the latter-day use of such epithets. I never heard him insist on amending the Ten Commandments or suggest the abolishment of the law of gravitation for which some peripatetic pedagogues are predisposed to attempt.

Indeed he was loath to change; and doubted the wisdom of much of present day programs which enforce radical changes or suggest revolutionary procedure. The basic maxims, principles and the *modus operandi* of man's education have changed but little, if at all, since Socrates and Plato taught the youth of Athens 'neath the trees of *Academia*.

On the other hand he was neither arrogant in opposition, nor resentful of advice or pleas for change if some of us would point out defects or defaults in our local practice and would concur without cynical comments or obstructive tactics in reasonable changes in the rules governing administration.

He believed, as all experienced teachers know, that while rules and regulations, and elaborate curricula and complicated programs are more or less necessary when and where numbers are large, success in primary, secondary, and higher education is achieved in essence and efficiency in the personal relations of teachers and students in classroom or laboratory. He knew, too, with Plato of old that numbers and noise are neither the *sine qua non* nor the sign posts of success.

But while reserved and refraining from ostentatious and all vociferous demonstration, Dr. Pearson was always certain to let us know what his feelings and opinions were if he felt that the primary ethics or basic rules of educational discipline were infringed or the good name of the college or the university endangered by dubious or objectionable procedure or policies.

A man's character and courage are always tested when matters go awry, when interests and opinions are in a sorry criss-cross—and danger looms. If he is concerned with the general



ALFRED J. PEARSON
TEACHER, SCHOLAR, AND DIPLOMAT

welfare and seeks the right and stands forth in advocacy of betterment, then he is the sort of man of which strong states are builded and a better society insured. In such tests Pearson was found true and steady when tried by the strongest fires. Once, on an occasion still fresh in the memory of some of his colleagues of twenty years association, when sore perplexity and trials distressed us, he stood forth staunchly and, with team-mates, insisted on a better ordering of our common life. There was no dodging or hedging, no tergiversation or vacillation.

Sir Francis Bacon informs us that "small matters win great commendation" in the ceremonial relations of mankind. The nature and manner of a colleague are displayed as much by the little things in the daily routine as by his notable, major doings. "Trifles light as air" are significant. In his relations with colleagues and students there is one memory each and all have—his constant courtesy in casual meetings or interview, in conference or in council. The private secretary of his predecessor in the office of Dean thirty years ago thus records her recollection:

. . . I was timid about approaching the professors to deliver messages, arrange meetings, call students from their classes, etc., and I sometimes felt very much like the proverbial football, as I was shunted from the Dean to the Registrar, to the President and back to the Dean.

Dr. Pearson's fine old-country courtesy was always refreshing and encouraging and I appreciated it more than I can say. It has been twenty-eight years since I graduated . . . but I do recall the glow with which his courtly manners always enveloped me.²

At first glance the Dean's countenance and conduct gave one the impression of imperturbable seriousness, not to say solemnity. Serious he always was in his ordinary talk and procedure. But ever and anon his colleagues in conferences or in committee sessions would find the solemnities split by a flash of humor or the absurdities involved in a complication sundered by a witty comment that pierced like a rapier thrust. Two incidents which remain vividly in my memory will suffice to illustrate the quality of his dry sober humor—

²Mrs. Geo. D. (Josephine Bailey) Serrill (1911), Spencer, Iowa, October 2, 1939.

one was exhibited in the flash of his eyes, the other in a sudden rejoinder.

One day in committee a colleague who was possessed of a lusty ego with an energetic tendency to egotistic self-expression was frankly and blandly telling us that his subject "was really the most important subject in the curriculum" and should be given preference in registering students. Dean Pearson was giving him the courtesy of rapt attention, gazing at him most intently without a glimmer of a sign of dissent or distaste. Suddenly the humor of the situation was too much for him. His eyes flashed his appreciation to the rest of us in a sweeping glance which made it hard to repress our risibles. When the colleague left the room, he solemnly asked "Can you beat it!!"

On the other occasion, many years ago, a group of colleagues were chatting in the lobby of the Carnegie Library. A rumor was current to the effect that the faculty was ordered to attend a funeral of a certain notable not in high favor with us. In the midst of our conversation a colleague came in the front door. As soon as he saw us he pulled out a note book with not a little ostentation and announced: "I am taking the names of all those who are going to attend the funeral, and especially those who are *not going*."

Without any disagreement each of us, save one, quietly responded that various circumstances, other engagements, etc., prevented our attending. Dr. Pearson, however, without the slightest sign of adverse significance seriously said: "Well, I know of no place where I would rather go than to that man's funeral." Although the rest of us went off in a gale of laughter, his face continued serious to the point of sternness—except that a knitting of his eyebrows and a glint of his eyes indicated that he sensed the impropriety of our expression but appreciated the reason.

II

The members of the faculty learned to know the facets of Dr. Pearson's personality more intimately when he became Dean of the College of Liberal Arts in 1930. In the nature of his office we had to meet him more or less daily in the

ordinary routine—in interviews about students, in conferences before and during meetings of committees of which he was *ex officio* a member, in regular monthly meetings of the faculty, and in the administrative council of the University.

Seen thus at close range we found Dean Pearson congenial and considerate. He was ready of access, open-minded in discussion, willing to listen to any and all parties in interest, and clear as to fundamentals. He was cautious and discrete in comment and criticism, and always mindful of the larger good in reaching conclusions, no matter whether it was the treatment of a student in default or a rule and its administration. If occasion demanded he could be blunt, direct, and unequivocal in expressing his views in dissent.

One of the most trying—perhaps the most taxing—functions of a Dean is dealing with complaints and criticisms about the work of instructors which come into his office from students (or their fond and irate parents) or from the members of the governing boards or the many-headed beast we call “the public.” Members of the faculty have some grateful memories of his consideration and sense of justice in such circumstances. He did not instantly assume that such complaints were necessarily valid and act adversely without canvassing their *pros* and *cons*. He stood between his staff and contentious critics and insisted on justice and equity for them. If perchance he found that the complaints were more or less well founded, he conferred with the instructor in question and sought in a frank but kindly way to correct the trouble, and thus protect both the class and the instructor. He was not an arbitrary boss, a heartless or ruthless autocrat. He was a colleague in a common task.

Another trait was notable. If the members of the faculty found themselves at loggerheads in controversy anent proposed changes in the curriculum, or heat developed over the interpretation of some rule for its administration, Dean Pearson preferred compromise to insistence upon either his or that advocate’s particular proposal. Opponents were often irritated and cynical; but human life, and social progress have all gone forward by intermittent compromises between clashing “bitter-enders.”

As a presiding officer of our faculty, Dean Pearson was scrupulously observant of academic and parliamentary proprieties and called us quickly to account if we either neglected or ignored their observance. I have a lively memory of my default on one occasion and his instant and pointed exception—and, I deserved the reprimand.

We could differ with Dean Pearson in matters of policy and procedure, and anon clash sharply without discomfort or dread of consequences. He was not one to look upon such dissent as disloyalty or treason, or opposition as *lese majesty*. Members of the executive committee of our college recall with no little amusement and gratitude the frequent breaking of lances in our vigorous discussions of matters in controversy. But no matter how frank or forceful our debates might be we severally could go back to him the next day without any fear that we would encounter frowns and a repellant manner. This is the manner and mode of men of character and a fine sense of the fitness of things.

A few days after his death one of my colleagues of thirty-five years, Dr. Sherman Kirk, Professor of Classical Language and Literature, commenting on Dean Pearson's character and life among us as a fellow collegian quietly observed: "Dean Pearson was always very much of a gentleman."

The severest acid test to which we are subject in the day's work is the judgment of official subordinates who work under constant direction. A cynic has told us that notables are seldom heroes to their valets. But such was not true in Dean Pearson's case. The alert and gracious lady who for seven years, 1930-1937, was his efficient *alter ego* thus records her memories.

"I feel the Dean's loss very keenly. It is hard to realize that such a stalwart person could be taken so suddenly. . . . In the more than seven years of close association with him in the office I never knew him to be unkind, critical, sarcastic or ill-natured. He was . . . a gentleman in every sense of the word.³

". . . The Dean had so many outstanding characteristics that one could write at great length concerning them, but of

³Mrs. S. H. (Mayflower Van Horn) Wells (1925), Des Moines, Iowa, August 13, 1939.

course what I shall remember him for more than anything else was the fact that he was such an agreeable person to work for, always considerate and always appreciative of every little service.

“Kindness to me, to students and to faculty members, and consideration for everyone: The Dean was never too busy to be kind. Whether in deep study over matters pertaining to university work or in the preparation of a speech to be given before some prominent organization, Dean Pearson was never too busy to listen to the troubles and problems of others, to talk the matter over at length and to suggest possible solutions. It was often necessary for me to interrupt him in his studies, he would always turn willingly to give the matter at hand his undivided attention and was never unkind. Students, reporting to him on account of excessive absences, low grade cards or unpaid tuition, were greeted kindly and if after hearing the student's story, Dean Pearson felt him to be in earnest in his efforts, the Dean would spare nothing in order to help him. I recall one particular incident when a student reported to him regarding absences and unpaid tuition. After an interview, the young man was sent to the Pearson home to be outfitted with some clothing which would enable him to appear in class and to apply for student work without loss of self-respect—even on washday. I remember one or more instances wherein faculty members were benefited by his kindly help and advice, without which consideration they might not be on the faculty today.

“Honesty: Dean Pearson was conservative and careful in his business deals but he never resorted to dishonesty or to deceitfulness. Each and every debt was paid promptly. An error on a statement of account to him was just as serious regardless of whether he or the debtor might benefit thereby, and such an error was always corrected before or at the time of payment. An illustration of his honesty even in the matter of postage stamps: He kept stamps for personal correspondence in his desk and I was instructed to use them on all of his personal letters. On one occasion he dictated a letter which I considered as pertaining to university business and therefore used university postage on it. A few days after the letter was

mailed, Dean Pearson inquired as to whether or not his postage had been used on the letter. When I informed him that university postage had been used, he refunded the stamp with the remark that since the letter contained a personal element, he thought it really should have been mailed with his own postage.

“Modesty: He would not display his diplomas, degrees or other evidences of honor received from various institutions and organizations. He disliked the wearing of pins, badges or any form of insignia. Quite by accident I opened a large package of his which contained a number of medals won in Europe, fraternity emblems, etc., which he explained to me with a smile that he always kept properly hidden away where no one would see them. I believe that the only “decoration” I ever saw him wear was his Phi Beta Kappa key. He said he didn’t care to be a sign board.

“Generosity: No student activity or any other project pertaining to the university or city failed to receive his financial support if solicited. I have sometimes approached him reluctantly at the urgent request of students, faculty members or alumni, to ask if he cared to contribute to this or that project or to buy this or that article (which perhaps seemed unnecessary to me) but the Dean would always smile and hand me the amount of money solicited, making some remark to the effect that “That’s what keeps everything going as it should.”⁴

III

Although primarily an appreciation of Alfred Pearson as a teacher and educator, it is not inappropriate here to indicate some memories of Dr. Pearson’s entry into the nation’s foreign service, as it was the traits of his ability and character displayed on the Drake University campus in our intramural associations that were the premises of the writer’s assurances to President Harding which lead to his appointment as our nation’s Minister, first to Poland, and later to Finland. In addition, however, Pearson had two other valuable experiences, apart from his university background, which especially prepared him for the missions he was to fulfill.

⁴ *Ibid.*, October 15, 1939.

In 1911 he was given a commission by Governor B. F. Carroll of Iowa to make a study of the public school system of Germany. The privileges accorded him in the Kaiser's dominion in consequence of the Governor's mandate, gave him opportunities for acquiring not merely first hand, but intimate knowledge of the background and premises of the *esprit de corps* of the German people in that fatal year of the Moroccan crisis which so affected German pride, an *esprit de corps* compounded of Bismarck's political philosophy of "Blood and Iron," of Treitschke's ruthless *Kultur*, of Nietzsche's *Uebermensch*, and Bernhardt's worship of the War Gods, which soon thereafter swept over Europe with such devastating fury.

Eleven years later, 1918-1919, Dr. Pearson was one of the Directors of the overseas service of our American Young Men's Christian Association in France, and, after the Armistice, directed the "Y" work in the occupied sections of Germany, pending the negotiations for peace at Versailles. During his directorship he gave popular lectures to our soldiers upon the interesting phases of the history and traditions of the regions then occupied by our troops. They were so well received that they were reprinted in 1919 in two brochures entitled: *The Rhine and its Legends*, and *The Moselle in History*, 100,000 of the former and 10,000 of the latter were printed. He made his hearers appreciate the myths and romances clustering about the old castles whose frowning battlements greeted the eye in so many mountain fastnesses or jutted up against the sky line in so many of the picturesque vallies of those two noted rivers.

His success with the Third Army was such that Mr. W. H. Holmes, Field Adviser, asked to have him transferred to another Division; but counter appeals enabled him to remain with the Third until May, 1919. On his transfer to Paris Dr. Sidney B. Snow, of King's Chapel, Boston, then with the Third Army, said of his work: "... it would be hard to exaggerate the value of his service . . . Men of the Third Army owe much to the labors of Dr. Pearson for their understanding of the rich historic significance of the Rhine Valley . . ." Pearson was also asked to head a Committee of Eight research

workers to compile and edit the volume of 700 pages containing the official history of the "Y" work with the Third Army.

It was not surprising, therefore, that in 1921 his personal and political friends began urging him as worthy of representing us at the royal court of his native Sweden. I was asked to prepare an appreciation of his career, character and qualifications which fitted him for the appointment sought, and was in the midst of it when, by reason of the illness in the family of Judge Eskill Carlson, I was suddenly drafted, March 9, 1922, to go to Washington with Mr. Charles J. Engleen, then President of the John Erickson League, to present Dr. Pearson's candidacy to the President.

Before going to the White House I had naively assumed that Senator A. B. Cummins of Iowa would take the major role in the conference with the President, but my more shrewd associate, Mr. Engleen, warned me that I might be called on and to be prepared. The conferees (March 21, 1922) consisted of Senators Wm. B. McKinley of Illinois, Cummins and C. A. Rawson of Iowa, and Messrs. C. C. Dowell of Des Moines and Burton E. Sweet of Waterloo, Representatives from Iowa. After the usual informal greetings and pleasantries, Senator Cummins, to my astonishment, with no preliminary or introduction said: "Mr. President, we have asked for this interview to enable Professor Herriott to present to you the qualifications of Dr. Alfred J. Pearson for the Swedish Mission." I was surprised but being forewarned I proceeded in a very informal manner to set forth our reasons for urging Professor Pearson as a fit and worthy diplomatic representative of our nation at Stockholm. In brief they were:

First, his ancestral inheritance and intimate knowledge of the history and literature of Sweden and Scandinavian countries and mastery of their language made his appointment eminently appropriate, for it would insure an alert, sympathetic interest in the life of the sturdy folk of that land of long days and long nights and an able representative of our national interests which would enhance our common welfare.

Second, Dr. Pearson spoke six languages easily—Danish, Norwegian and Swedish, English, French and German. Be-

sides his varied knowledge of the history and literature of the peoples of northern Europe he had had various experiences which enhanced his fitness for the diplomatic post sought. He had close and wide connections with the Lutheran churches in the midwest and had lectured extensively in Scandinavian centers. He was Instructor of the officers in Camp Dodge in French during the first World War; and was active in promoting the work of the John Erickson League and the Liberty Loan drives. All these enhanced his qualifications.

Third, Dr. Pearson was not a "mere college professor" as the public cynics frequently designated such academicians. He was familiar with farm life and modern industrial and financial institutions and his mind had been disciplined by their relentless exactions which insured balanced judgments and considerate decisions in dealing with conflicting or general interests.

Fourth, I could assure the President that after fourteen years of intra-mural association with Dr. Pearson, I knew he was not only alert mentally and learned in both English and Scandinavian cultures, but he was keen in his observations and considerate of the niceties in human relations—and if need be outspoken and decisive in action and speech.

Fifth, and finally, while cautious and considerate in speech, Dr. Pearson was congenial and gracious without effusiveness. He would enhance good will and easily promote our national interests without friction.

Two facetious but friendly interruptions by President Harding, referring to his predecessor, the Academician of Princeton, added spice to the occasion without disconcerting me, or indicating an adverse attitude towards our presentation.

Our immediate objective at Washington, namely the Swedish Embassy, was not achieved, because Dr. Pearson was born in Sweden, and that fact under our diplomatic practice barred his appointment to that post; but President Calvin Coolidge sent him to Poland, 1924-1925, and to Finland, 1925-1930.

While this is not the place to set forth the important events in his diplomatic career, somewhat of his success may be inferred from two letters and two incidents which follow. The

first letter was written by a one-time colleague on Drake's instructional staff, and intimately concerned with his appointment—Dr. Stephen P. Mizwa, later Executor Director of "The Kosciuszko Foundation" of New York, established largely on his initiative, to encourage the exchange of scholars between Poland and the United States.

I could not tell you how happy I was in the Spring of 1924 when I heard in a confidential manner from the Polish Ambassador in Washington that Professor Pearson was being considered as the American Minister to Poland. At the same time I was asked confidentially to give my own report of what I knew of Professor Pearson. Needless to say, my report was as genuinely enthusiastic as my admiration for him has always been.

When I made my first visit to Poland in 1930, and although at that time Dean Pearson had been transferred to Helsingfors some five years back, I heard in high official circles only superlative remarks about the sincere and dignified manner in which Dean Pearson represented his country in Warsaw.⁵

The next letter is from one of his students, and sometime Surgeon on the Swedish Ship, *Scanyork*, Dr. Everett M. George, now of Des Moines, Iowa.

While serving as a ship surgeon on the S. S. *Scanyork* in 1933, an opportunity was afforded for several visits to Poland and Finland. It was most gratifying to hear on numerous occasions some very flattering remarks regarding Dean Pearson with respect to his services as U. S. Minister to both countries. These remarks were usually voluntarily offered after it had been ascertained that I was acquainted with Dean Pearson.

Prince Sapieha, at that time financial advisor to the Polish Government and stationed in Washington, D. C., was particularly impressed with the natural diplomacy of Dean Pearson. He stated that the pleasant relations between the two governments had been stimulated to a large extent through Dean Pearson's efforts.

During several visits to Helsingfors, Finland, a similar flow of laudatory comments regarding Dean Pearson's work was forthcoming. Special mention was made of the absence of any disagreeable incidents in his professional and personal life, which was in contrast to that of

* * * * *

Dean Pearson's sphere of influence extended throughout Scandinavia. In Copenhagen, Denmark, both Prince and Princess Viggo were acquainted with Dean Pearson and his son, Paul, of whom

⁵Dr Stephen P. Mizwa, New York City, October 14, 1939.

both were held in high respect by all the members of the royal family.⁶

Signal and unusual honor was conferred on Dr. Pearson during his Polish mission when two formal state dinners were accorded him at Warsaw by the Prime Minister, at which state dinners the high dignitaries of the government were present as a token of their appreciation of his decisive part in forwarding the industrial recovery of Poland and enhancing better international relations with the United States. Needless to say, such special consideration is seldom indicated within diplomatic circles.^{6a}

At the conclusion of his two missions Dr. Pearson was accorded honors which signalized the high esteem in which he was held by the Presidents and parliaments of the States to which he was accredited by our government. Poland, in 1925, bestowed upon him the Order of *Polonia Restituta*; and Finland, in 1930, the *Order of The White Rose*:—which reflected the friendship and good will created by his ministry reported by the two correspondents just cited.

After his return from his diplomatic missions he was a frequent contributor to the columns of the *Des Moines Register*. His articles gave its readers illuminating accounts of the culture, institutions and social programs of the Scandinavian countries. There was no insidious propaganda lurking in them—merely the simple purpose of letting the public know that the peaceful folk of those lands were enjoying a marked degree of prosperity and contentment which we might enjoy if we cared to study their life and ways. Dr. Pearson was appointed by the Mayor of Des Moines, Chairman of the Municipal Housing Commission for the City. His influence among his Swedish compatriots was signalized by his appointment as President of the Swedish-American Tercentenary Commission for Iowa in 1937.

⁶Dr. Everett M. George, Des Moines, Iowa, October 14, 1939, with a supplemental postscript.

Dr. Pearson's son, Paul H., referred to by Dr. George, is an alumnus of the College of Liberal Arts of Drake (1926) and also of the Law School (1927). He qualified for service in 1927, becoming first, Clerk in the American Consulate in Helsingfors, Finland, 1927-28; second, Clerk to the Trade Commissioner at Hamburg, Germany, 1928-29; third, appointed Assistant Trade Commissioner at Hamburg, July 1, 1929; fourth, Trade Commissioner at Copenhagen, August 1 and continuing until June 16, 1939; and fifth, Trade Commissioner in the American Embassy, Berlin, since June 16, 1939. He has ranked in Class eight of the Foreign Service since July 1, 1939.

^{6a}A. J. Pearson, *Ms. Diary*.

His sudden passing gives one cause for thankfulness; Dr. Pearson has been spared the distress he would have suffered in reading of the dire fate which has been inflicted on Poland by Hitler's brutal ultimatum to the Polish government and his ruthless invasion and destruction of her cities and slaughter of her helpless population. One cannot but wonder whether or not mankind is reverting to barbarism and savagery.

IV

But, it was not in the pomp and circumstance of high office, I venture to assert, that Alfred J. Pearson had his greatest delight and influence. It was in his classroom. There, as a teacher, he was a beneficent autocrat who ruled without any formal exercise of his authority but simply by the cosmic law of attraction.

In these crowding days, "extra-curricular activities" seem to have the right of way in public interest and in academic concern if we may safely infer the truth from the columns of the metropolitan press. But I need not tell academicians that the secrets of Nature and her laws, and the lessons of man's progress up from barbarism, which must and should control us in this vale of tears, if our civilization is not to conclude in chaos and cinder heaps, are not learned in the market place or in the public forum, or in the raucous shouts of the heedless crowds of the city streets or in the stadium. Moreover, after

The tumult and the shouting dies,

The captains and the kings depart

there stands the teacher. He must precede and he must follow, guiding the youth in the ways of culture and science, in constitutional law and order, if the torch bearers of sweetness and light are to carry on.

There are all sorts of instructors. Some are martinets and enforce discipline and instruction by what are almost terroristic methods. Some are of the card index sort who keep a close tab on each breath a student draws and meticulously notes down each particular boggle or failure and split decimals in grading.

Some teachers dwell upon the minutia of their subjects to the exclusion of the general, the major and the universal; they see the skeleton and muscles and not the organism and its

relation to its environment; or they split hairs north by north-west; or they dig roots simply and harp on cases and declensions and forget the beauties and significance of the drama or poem and see not their connection with life and nature at large. They seldom see the forest for the trees. Your true teacher, however, should

see life steadily and see it whole.

Here I cannot speak from personal knowledge of Dr. Pearson as a teacher; but what is much better, I give some of the memories of a score of his students whose letters I have in my possession. They are shot through with many golden threads.

If the limits of space did not prohibit I would like to quote at length from all of the letters, for they display such a remarkable definiteness and unanimity of happy memories of his notable ability as a teacher and of the beneficent effects of his character and influence in the class room and in his relations with students outside the class routine. While there is a similarity in their memories and comments, yet almost every one recalls different facets of his character and personality, or relates a different type of incident, therefore I venture to quote rather generously:—for they afford conclusive evidence of an extraordinarily effective teacher who left a lasting impress on the minds of his students:—which is always the ambition and earnest hope of your honest-to-goodness teacher.

First I give you a summary of excerpts which suggest his class-room routine and technique. The years following each one quoted signifies the year of his or her graduation from the College of Liberal Arts of Drake University.

Writing from Long Island, New York, a member of the class of 1909 tells of his keen observations and humor which "made the dullest text intensely human" and gave the class "an insight into forces beyond the text. The atmosphere was an ideal combination of mutual interest in the work and each other. I realize that only an extraordinary personality can create that class room feeling."⁷

⁷Mrs. J. M. (Ida De Nelsky) Frankel, Great Neck, Long Island, N. Y., October 12, 1939.

In "Professor Pearson," writes an alumna of 1910 from Los Angeles, "there was no ridicule or scoffing at the beginner's poor attempts to use the correct accent, or the proper selection of words, only kindly and painstaking explanation"⁷⁸

A prominent alumnus of the class of 1913, a resident in Des Moines, relates the potent influence of his courtesy and confidence.

As a Freshman I had come to Drake University from a high school where a certain amount of cheating in examinations was looked upon as an accomplishment. It happened that on account of illness I was unable to take one examination with the class under Dean Pearson. When I went to him to take the examination he handed me the questions with books in the room that had all the answers, told me to leave my paper on the desk when I was through, walked out of the room and shut the door. Needless to say, he cured me of all desire to cheat in examinations.⁹

One of the Class of 1914, in Quincy, Illinois, recalls that Dr. Pearson's class room procedure was "unusual in that there was no apparent effort to catch the interest of the students by any particular method—but rather the assumption of the seriousness of purpose of anyone who might be in his class."¹⁰

Four members of the class of 1915 have clear cut memories. A member of the professorial staff of Cornell College at Mt. Vernon, Iowa, recalls his "infinite kindness and patience" which he accorded her.¹¹ From Massachusetts another writes, "In all my associations with Professor Pearson, I never heard an angry word toward any one. He was always ready to help and suggest. Indeed one felt free to approach Professor Pearson at all times. He always gave the student the benefit of the doubt. He never made his students feel he was above them, but one of them."¹²

A member, now on the teaching staff of the Christian Fenger Senior High School of Chicago remembers that

Dean Pearson's was a dynamic personality, one that left a vivid imprint upon his students. He embodied in himself the thing he

⁸Mrs. Boyd E. (Grace Stentz) Ruby, Los Angeles, Calif., October 10, 1939.

⁹Mr. Don E. Neiman, Secretary of the Des Moines Credit Men's Association, Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 5, 1939.

¹⁰Mrs. Nathan (Laura McClary) Mack, Quincy, Ill., October 12, 1939.

¹¹Professor Alberta Munkress of Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, October 9, 1939.

¹²Mrs. Edw. (Gertrude Yerovitch) Ferestein, Mansfield, Mass., October 7, 1939.

was teaching. I remember particularly his course in the "Life and Customs of the German People" how very *real* he made them—as if you were living with these people, not studying about them. Always a delight to his students was his radiant humor.

But Dean Pearson taught more than his subject. His outstanding character, culture and attainments emerged as the things his students would like to emulate. . . .¹³

Another of that class—a sometime Associate Professor of Home Economics in Kansas State College and later in the University of Kentucky, now resident of West Fayette, Indiana, records:

. . . .You ask for memories of Dean Pearson and I think I shall mention things that come to mind as I first read your letter. His utter fairness in dealing with students I think of first. He required plenty of work in his classes and if you gave it, he gave you credit for it, unfailingly.

He was so thorough in his everyday classwork and in his examinations. Every course I had with him was carefully and completely planned and the plan was always followed.

* * * * *

It always seemed to me that you could be sure that in his dealings with people no matter who they were, he would always have that same fairness, quiet dignity, and sane reserve that I remember as his student.

In him, I think Drake had one of her finest teachers. I did *not* know him as Dean, but there again, it seems to me, students and faculty would appreciate that thoroughness and fairness he always showed as a teacher. . . .¹⁴

And this Alumna, now a Critic Teacher of the State Normal College of Wisconsin at La Crosse, thus recalls her instructor in German:

Reading of Dr. Pearson's death was a real shock to me. I suppose he never knew how much Drake Students all thought of him and admired him. That is too bad, isn't it? We might have said a word while he was living rather than to wait for a memorial service.

I think Dr. Pearson missed few if any of the meetings of our Literature Club when he was sponsor. Whether it was a study evening, a picnic, or an out of town outing, he always seemed to find time to attend. He became one of us. Pictures I have of the group show him participating in our fun and studies. He made us think he enjoyed it all. I still think he did, but still—I can

¹³Mrs. F. O. (Opal Daniels) Johnston, Chicago, Ill., October, 1939.

¹⁴Mrs. Jno. F. (Pearle Ruby) Bullard, West Fayette, Ind., Oct. 15, 1939.

realize now how much it must have meant for him, at times, to be there. I feel sincerely that Dr. Pearson made an outstanding contribution to Drake students. . . .¹⁵

A member of the last class he conducted, in summer school of 1939, at the time of his death recalls vividly his personality and considerate treatment of students:

Dean Pearson was a congenial person with an attractive personality, radiating friendliness, causing all who met him to wish to know him better. He was the type of individual that it takes to make an institution of learning a great success.

* * * * * * *

To add a personal touch, may I mention the many invitations that were given during our class sessions to come to his office, "The clinic for all dramatic ills" as he spoke of it. This particular ill being Modern European Drama. Dean Pearson was never too busy to meet all who entered his clinic. . . .¹⁶

Others were impressed by his dignity, his constant serenity, his seriousness, and his astonishing acquaintance with the literature of other races, of the Greeks and the Romans, of the French, Spanish, Italian and Scandinavian countries. Goethe and Schiller were compared with Ibsen and Shakespeare, Moliere, and Racine; and all with no ostentatious display of erudition. An alumnus of 1938, now a Fellow in German in Northwestern University says that "as a scholar the Dean was profound but in no sense pedantic." His letter continues with the following interesting recollections:

His complete composure was well illustrated by an incident which occurred a few years ago. Behind his desk were hung three heavy and rather unsightly charts, which gave the corresponding English phonetic equivalents of the German alphabet. Whenever a student made an error in pronunciation, it was the Dean's custom to refer to the charts. One spring day one of the charts came loose and plunged to the floor, missing the Dean's head by fractions of an inch. Without hesitating the Dean remarked, "Those charts will make an impression on someone yet!"

Dr. Pearson's attitude toward his work was very serious, and he expected the same from his students. The flippant person was not welcome in his classes, and this type usually had the good sense to avoid them. The serious student, however, found the Dean's patience boundless, however much a plodder he might be. The Dean's sympathy was also quickly enlisted by worthy students who

¹⁵Miss Grace Tripp, La Crosse, Wis., Oct. 14, 1939.

¹⁶Mrs. Marie Grauel, Fairfield, Iowa, Oct. 14, 1939.

were pursuing their studies under difficulties. I recall one student, whose fate it was to work the greater part of each night. He usually slept through the Dean's class, and his efforts at preparation were exceedingly feeble although serious. Through the saving graces of an incomplete, he was eventually allowed his credit. We can in contrast imagine his fate at one of our larger institutions.

Because of his perfect dignity and his dislike of betraying emotion, the Dean was considered by most students to be cold and unapproachable. He had, on the contrary, a very real interest in people and would devote hours to untangling the intricacies and petty details which perplexed Drake Students. He had a very real talent for the practical and could be relied on to direct any discussion away from the trivial to a constructive conclusion.¹⁷

After his return from his diplomatic service in 1930, Dean Pearson had much in his recollections wherewith to illustrate the meaning of countless passages in the classic and modern literature of Europe. He had a very retentive memory of both poetical lines and of anecdotes and incidents, and the students were not ill disposed to draw him out. His reminiscences of his diplomatic experiences illumined many a passage in the text in hand or afforded a delightful diversion from the routine. One of his students will long recall a railroad journey as his seatmate when the hours passed rapidly in listening to some of his stories of life in Warsaw and Helsingfors.¹⁸ His assistants have the happiest recollections of their work with him. One of his "star" students was his assistant and Reader for three years, 1911-1914, and her memories are happy and vivid ones:

"My most lasting impression, however, comes neither from class-room procedure nor from "Die Deutsche Ecke" which came into being during my day,—but from the many, many hours spent as assistant in the little German office. Zola Graham, and then later Olive Johnson and I served there on scholarships,—our work being largely the meticulous correcting of composition papers for the more elementary students,—with occasional joyous periods of substituting for the honored professor in classwork during a brief absence. Our space was small; we were crowded; the bulk of material was considerable,—yet everything moved along with quiet smooth-

¹⁷Mr. Edward C. Breitenkamp, Evanston, Ill., Sept. 7, 1939.

¹⁸Miss Margaret Woodrow, (1939) Ames, Iowa, Oct. 18, 1939.

ness which I much admired. Professor Pearson's own intense studiousness inspired work in others—he never loafed or idled there. Perhaps he was studying another foreign language adding it to his long list of acquired tongues; perhaps he was memorizing some English gem,—and then, with a sparkle, would turn and recite it to us; perhaps he was outlining an address. Always,—in my memory he was busy. Likewise, always he was unhurried, and even in his movements, physical and mental, reflected an occupied leisure.

“One of my distinct impressions of Professor Pearson is a purely visual one,—of his walking back and forth, up and down the narrow office, as he committed something to memory, his lips sometimes moving half-audibly as he strode firmly up and down.

“Students on the campus,—back in those distant days, thought it was great fun to meet Dr. Pearson on the campus, in order to witness and share in the stately, somewhat European doffing of his hat and bowing of his figure as he met them on the walks. There was an innate ceremonious courtesy which we liked, because it was so inseparable from him, and so genuine an expression of himself.

“I shall always treasure the memory of his kindness and fun, his hearty ringing laugh, his love of a good story. Three years of intimate association failed to expose to me any of the less fine things which might linger in one's mind; there was such fine control, such appreciation of other people, such lack of carping or fault finding or gossip. . . .”¹⁹

Soon after our country entered the World War in 1917 the Chief of the Intelligence Department at Washington asked the head of the graduate department of German at the University of Chicago to commend an adept in German to him who was not a German but who could read and write and speak and dream in German. The writer of the foregoing letter was then a graduate student in the University on the Lake. She was Scotch-Irish and eligible, was commended to Washington, and responded to the summons which immediately ensued. For a year and more she was employed “far from the madding crowd” in that department interpreting Ger-

¹⁹Mrs. Nathan Mack, *Op. Cit.*

man documents and messages either captured on the battle fields of Europe or messages of the Germans caught *via* radio or wireless;—work not given to heedless ill-prepared or irresponsible persons.

V

Dean Pearson's technique in conducting his classes has been incidentally indicated in the preceding section but the excerpts from the letters and interview which follow display it more sharply. The first two are from letters of members of the class of 1917 and the third and fourth are from members of his last classes in 1938-1939.

From Seattle, Washington came the following cluster of memories:

. . . . Under his skillful guidance, the period assigned for learning a new language became instead an opportunity for exploring literature in a different tongue. "Wilhelm Tell"—"Die Jungfrau von Orleans"—"Faust"—were *read* not translated. Everyone of the books associated with these reading courses is still in my library, even though refunds from textbooks were always welcome diversions.

When our German Professor became Class Father of the Class of '17, we found that the twinkle-of-the-eye we had detected in the classroom had not been misleading. Professor Pearson entered into our fun as wholeheartedly as he shared our problems. His home was opened to us as freely as his office door had been opened to his students.

His office door opened with a special meaning for me when I was privileged to serve as a reader in his department. With quiet, efficient manner he supervised the routine of his office; but he brought to that atmosphere a keen sense of humor, a kindly appreciation for the problems of individual students, and a sincere regard for the strength and beauty of language that was an inspiration to all who worked with him. Our conversation was carried on in German, for always it was a language to be spoken, not just to be read from a book. In this environment, recording the secretary's minutes for Die Deutsche Ecke seemed a logical proceeding.

The unobtrusiveness of Professor Pearson's methods defies detection and analysis, but the inspiration of his teaching is an influence which I gratefully acknowledge.²⁰

Could any instructor ask for a finer tribute to his teaching procedure and its effectiveness that is recorded in the follow-

²⁰Miss Mary Ethel Dixon, Seattle, Wash., Oct. 10, 1939.

ing letter from an alumna, (1917), then a Fellow in the University of Chicago:

“Professor Pearson began to teach me German when I was still in high school. I think the first lesson I had was while walking along University Avenue with him, and I mentioned that I hoped to be in his classes when I went to college. So he began right then and there and made me tell him about “Mary and her little Lamb!” When I found that I could say most of the nursery rhymes in German, then he began on Fairy tales that were already well known, such as Puss in Boots, and on and on, until I lost the fear of trying to express myself in German. In college, he let me come in his advanced German courses, and there I learned how to read. He would assign a 300-page novel for a lesson, and simply forced us to learn to read by the page, rather than by a paragraph, or a sentence or a word. We would abstract that novel as briefly as possible and I found that I had learned to read German faster than English, and could write it on the typewriter equally fast. In class, one of his pet practices, was handing out a new novel or recent article in German, and we would go around the class, summarizing the thought page by page, from person to person. That meant quickly grasping the sense of the page, while the person next to you was reciting, and then phrasing it in good German.

“From 1917 to 1929 is quite a while, and I doubt if I so much as read more than an occasional bit of German, or at the most not more than one or two books a year in that language. I went brazenly into the Graduate School at Yale, and since I was up for my Master's degree, told the Professor that I would take my German language requirement examination any time. He pulled out a book at random from the shelf and I read, translating freely, from a book on nutrition by Von Pirquet, I think it was. Then the following year in Europe, I was in Vienna for a period, and found that I could understand people readily enough, but was tongue-tied about making conversation. After two weeks of silence, either it was too much for me (being a woman) to endure, or else something started the wheels rolling, and I found that I could talk along perfectly easily, only displaying a somewhat re-

served style of conversation, which is a bit unnatural for me. But I will never forget the last night, leaving Vienna for Venice. I decided to stretch my dollars as far as possible, and sat up in a coach all night on the train. In the compartment were four German students, and we all got to talking and laughing and telling stories, and suddenly I realized that they were laughing at my stories, and then I thought of how I began to tell stories in German with "Mary had a little lamb." I wished then, that Professor Pearson could have been with us in that car that night. He would have enjoyed the hilarity. I always thought of that night as passing my final examination in German."²¹

If such was Dr. Pearson's *modus operandi* in his class work when in the prime of his strength, did he continue to maintain the high level of his effectiveness when he was approaching the date line of his three score and ten? A letter from a member of his classes in 1938-39, now a Lydia Roberts Fellow in Columbia University, will abolish even the shadow of a doubt.

. . . I do have many vivid recollections of Dean Pearson in his classroom. I shall never forget those delightful hours which always passed all too quickly. It is, however, hard to explain in a few words what made his classes so unique. I only know that I never learned a subject so easily, with so much pleasure, as I did the German language.

Dean Pearson always took time to bring the whole realm of learning and culture into his class discussions. Perhaps some phrase in our story would recall a passage from some great master, and he would turn his book upside down on his desk and recite a long passage from memory. We might find ourselves in a few minutes discussing Polonius, Hamlet, or the gravediggers, or the weakness of Macbeth. Perhaps we would be off to Cairo, to Hamlet's grave, to southern France, or floating on the Rhine. We always loved to hear about state dinners and the diplomatic world. Many times Dean would tell a joke in German, and then laugh when we couldn't get the point.

I have wished many times that Dean Pearson could have written a book to tell his principles of teaching. He told us one day that he felt his position was one of great responsibility and that he always felt that he was to blame if one of his pupils did not succeed.

²¹Miss Virginia Kirk, Green Hall, University of Chicago, October 16, 1939.

He was sympathetic and kind, never making a student ill at ease. He was a great teacher.

I was always impressed by his deep love and understanding of all people all over the world. One cannot help but wish there were more such men of intelligence and understanding in the world to-day. Surely his students will have been inspired by his personality and character, and will become better world-citizens because of his great influence upon their lives.

As for myself, I shall never forget Dean Pearson. I know that years from now I will still remember his kindly smile, his courtesy, his love of everything worth-while. I shall always be grateful that I had the opportunity of studying under such a great teacher.

A friend of mine expressed all of this in one sentence better than I have in a whole page when he said: "Dean Pearson was a gentleman, a scholar, and a citizen."²²

The modern collegians in residence are wont to be frank in expressing their dislikes about those in authority, and about their instructors. The observations of a sophomore of the class of 1942 in an interview add to and enhance what the preceding excerpts demonstrate.

"It was not a task nor a dismal undertaking, to learn the German language under his guidance.

"One fact was noticeable. He was very ready in quoting verbatim from poems and would turn from German to French or English without any difficulty, showing the difference in the form of expressions.

"Students would go to him with their troubles without hesitation. He knew more, probably, about their troubles than their own family.

"Dean Pearson never spoke above or below the students interests and ability. He seemed to discover or discern the level of our interest and addressed himself easily along those lines. He never ridiculed or made fun of a student in his awkward attempts either to speak or to write the German language. In his classes we had to speak in German and even though we did not make much headway, he would not allow us to use English. In the Conversational German, he had a clever way of drawing us out and getting us into lively discussions. One day he asked the young ladies to tell why they did or did not smoke cigarettes and then he asked the

²²Miss Barbara Bitting, Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 6, 1939.

young men to say whether they approved of girls smoking and whether they would marry a girl who did smoke. There developed a very lively conversation all in German.

"He was always very reasonable with students who were employed with outside work. He was lenient if they were ill but he wanted them to tell him before the class rather than to let him discover they were not prepared after the class began. Sometimes because of illness, or other accidental causes, the number of the class would be small and he would not go on with the regular recitation, but would go on and tell of his travels and interesting poems or literature and at the next recitation would proceed with the regular lesson previously given. He did this so that all the members of the class would go forward at the same time. We used to like to meet in his office and frequently did with a small class. He would illustrate or make points by taking down from the shelves some new book and talk to us about its author or its contents and thus vary the ordinary routine.

"He was always good natured and I know of no students that dreaded his classroom or disliked the subject after they got started. Frequently I would walk out University Avenue with him as my home was not far from his, and we invariably talked in German. I owe a good deal to him, because even though I talked German at home, I learned the history and significance of words and the German literature in a way that I could not have done reading by myself."²³

But some sceptical folk may suspect that such favorable judgments are the products of the prejudice of familiars in a quasi family circle which naturally induces generous over-emphasis, if not exaggeration, of the virtues of esteemed instructors when ardent collegians indulge in public expression anent their *Alma Mater*:—and there is always this adverse presumption to guard against. But I may cite the testimony of one not to Drake's Manor born.

In 1923 there was on the teaching staff of Drake a brilliant young Assistant Professor of Economics. He was a native of Poland who came to this country when he was fourteen years

²³Miss Margaret Krekel, Des Moines, Interview Oct. 12, 1939.

of age. By the time he was twenty-one he had obtained his A. B. with a Phi Beta Kappa key from Amherst, and the next year his Master's degree from Harvard. In preparation for meeting his language requirement for his Doctorate at Harvard he entered Dr. Pearson's class in German. One day in mid-semester he said to me in my office with marked emphasis: "That man Pearson is the best teacher I have ever been under—any place."²⁴

VII

All through the letters previously quoted one senses an aura of subtle beneficent influences which kept the admiration of his students easily in thrall, and which linger in their recollections as blessed memories. I close with some extracts which indicate that Dr. Pearson's character and conduct in his classroom became radiant lights ahead to his students on their Pathway.

An alumnus, resident in Nevada, of the class of 1917, who left Dr. Pearson's classroom to enter the nation's air service in the World War, writes: "Through the past generation I have felt the effects of association with such fine men as Dean Pearson. . . . I have wished to be and live like them."²⁵ From a sometime Fellow in History in the University of Illinois, resident in Minneapolis (Class of 1911), her letter concludes: "For twenty-five years Dean Pearson and a few more of you have meant "Drake" to me—service, loyalty, purpose, friendliness, achievement!—Things of the Spirit which never die."²⁶

A Fellow in the University of Chicago ends her letter with: "Professor Pearson may have departed from this earth, but to his students, he will always remain a living joyous memory."²⁷ One who was in his class last summer (1939) quotes from a graduate of 1913: "A degree at Drake University without at least one course under Dean Pearson is like an unfinished symphony."²⁸

²⁴Dr. Stephen P. Mizwa, *Op. Cit.*

²⁵Mr. Paul K. Gardner, Editor of the *Review Miner* of Lovelock, Nev., Oct. 7, 1939.

²⁶Mrs. Trafford N. (Inez Downing) Jayne, Director of Weekly Church, Minneapolis, Minn., Oct. 18, 1939.

²⁷Miss Virginia Kirk, *Op. Cit.*

²⁸Miss Ira B. Gantz quoted in letter of Mrs. Grauel, *Op. Cit.*

BIRDS OF IOWA PIONEER DAYS

BY

JACK W. MUSGROVE, MARY R. MUSGROVE, AND

KENNETH E. COLTON

A hundred years ago, as small clusters of rudely built cabins began to dot the western bank of the Mississippi River, and other inland streams tributary to it, wild life in all forms was abundant in Iowa territory. Found in either the heavily wooded regions of the eastern or southern portions of Iowa, or in the prairie or lake regions of the west and north, all of this wild life, both birds and animals, was native to Iowa, and thrived on the wonderfully balanced habitat the territory afforded. Yet that condition of abundance has altered drastically with the passing of years. Today but few of us living have seen the large flocks, herds, or packs that once were common when the settlement of Iowa began. Many birds formerly common are no longer to be found, or are extremely rare, such as the wild turkey, the ruffed grouse, the prairie chicken, the passenger pigeon, and certain species of waterfowl. To the frequently heard question "Why?" one must answer that almost all of the causes for the disappearance of these valuable birds can be laid at the doorstep of man, and his "civilization."

Wild turkeys, like the other birds, were common to all parts of Iowa a hundred years ago, and for many a decade thereafter. Almost any tract of timber, especially along the rivers and in the heavily wooded eastern and southern sections, was certain to yield its quota of this native American bird. Nevertheless, though common in Iowa, it can hardly be said that the bird was unusually numerous, if we are to take the observation of Dr. Isaac Galland, an early resident of Lee County and well conversant with conditions in Iowa as one of her first residents, and as a land speculator among other things. Dr. Galland in his *Iowa Emigrant: containing a*

Map and General Descriptions of Iowa Territory, 1840, wrote that "the wild turkey, which was so abundant on the Ohio in early times, is but rarely found in Iowa; I have, however, seen large flocks of them on the river Des Moines, more frequently than in any other part of the country."¹

The plentiful presence of wild turkeys in western Iowa, however, is well authenticated by the record of John J. Audubon. In a diary kept of a trip up the Missouri River in 1843, this famous naturalist frequently noted these splendid game birds along the Iowa shore. Some wild turkeys were sighted at the southern border of the territory, and all along the upward journey in May of that year, he made record of these large table birds in addition to other bird species observed. Later, on the downward trip in October, Audubon landed near the mouth of the Big Sioux to shoot three wild turkeys, which unquestionably graced "the captain's table" for several days following.²

Even fifteen years after Galland made his comparative observations—and as such they should be recognized—turkeys in southeastern Iowa continued to be "common," as indicated in the well noted diary of William Savage, who kept as full an account of his hunting exploits as he did of the wanderings of his cow and the method of farming he pursued, both of which were fully noted. Sometimes the bag of this nature loving woodsman was but one turkey, more often two, and occasionally as high as five.

Not being a bloody hunter who killed for the sadistic pleasure of taking life, he may be counted upon as having shot the amount he could use, and no more. Though the bird was so common that Savage occasionally could set out "turkey bait" in the field to lure the unwary bird within range of the waiting gun, more often he had to stalk the bird in the woodlands. This he was not loathe to do, for though the female bird and the younger ones were smaller in size, an occasional turkey would register eighteen and twenty pounds, a mighty good addition to the table of a large pioneer family supporting a struggling field of grain and a cow and a farrow of pigs.

¹Reprint in *Annals of Iowa*, Third Series, XII:501.

²*Ibid.*, XVI:414-419, *passim*.

Perhaps it was the result of an unusually high bag, or a successful catch via the bait route that enabled Savage from time to time to bring turkeys to the Salem market. The low price these large brown-tailed birds brought offer further evidence of their plentiful supply; on one occasion he methodically noted in his diary that a young turkey brought but thirty cents.³

Turkeys were a flock bird, and, though nesting on the ground, roosted in trees, where at night silhouetted against the sky by a good moon, they made easy targets for the skillful huntsman. Hunting wild turkey in this manner was one of the more common methods of combining sport and adding variety to the dinner table at the same time. Savage in his meticulous diary entries, notes more than once of shooting "1 turkey at roost."⁴ And even before Savage took up the white man's war against the feathered tribes, John J. Audubon recorded the custom of moonlight hunting of turkey cocks and hens in his diary journal of the Missouri River expedition already noted. He philosophically observed on his downward trip one night that "it is late; had the weather been clear, and the moon, which is full, shining, it was our intention to go ashore, to try to shoot wild turkeys; but as it is pouring down rain as dark as pitch, we have thrown our lines overboard and perhaps may catch a fish."⁵

Inevitably, however, as the advancing tide of settlers brought the echo of a ringing axe into the hills, and claim cabins and pioneer homesteads penetrated the virgin woodland areas of Iowa, the large turkey flocks along the rivers and in the timbers began to diminish. To the loss of their woodland homes and nesting areas due to settlement must be added the decimation of the hunters' gun, for in the absence of well established communities and the "division of labor" found therein, many a pioneer depended upon the assistance of his gun and the availability of wild game nearby to bring meat to the dinner table. This combination of settlement and slaughter almost eliminated the wild turkey population in Iowa before 1900.

³*Ibid.*, XIX:90-114, *passim*.

⁴*Ibid.*, p. 103.

⁵*Ibid.*, XVI:416.

There are to be sure, records of single individual birds in Appanoose County in 1902 and in Davis County in 1905, and of three birds in Lucas County in 1910, but the mere statement of these isolated observations tell a graphic story. By 1910 most of the woodlands capable of supporting these birds had either been destroyed in Iowa, or else so well settled, that the birds, failing to find nesting areas in Iowa, either died out or else migrated to more favorable territories. The passing of these birds entirely exhausted the native supply of wild turkey in Iowa, so far as is known. In later years birds of this species were imported from outside the state and released in suitable localities in the hope that they would multiply and again become a game bird. This hope has been in vain.⁶

The wild turkey has a long record in history. At the time of the discovery of the New World they were very abundant and became a regular source of food for the colonists. Easily killed in their large flocks by the bow and arrow, they were even more markedly thinned out by the use of the gun, though they soon became more wary and gun shy. Still to be found in some parts of the country, notably in the South, legal protection and their shyness reduces the kill considerably.

This bird, America's principal contribution to the domesticated birds kept by man, is best known today by its cousin the "domestic" turkey, or the southern and Mexican strain of the species which the Spaniards discovered in captivity among the Indians of Mexico.⁷ This southern specie, used commonly as a sacred sacrificial bird by the Pueblo Indians of the Southwest, shows its difference from the "wild" strain by the white or buffy tipped tail and rump feathers. The eastern or wild turkey, which was the bird found wild in Iowa, had brown tips on the tail and rump feathers.⁸

The same causes which worked to eliminate the wild turkey also resulted in the practical elimination of the ruffed grouse whose muffled drumming could once be heard in almost any tract of Iowa woodland. The grouse—also called by some a pheasant—though it nested upon the ground, had to have

⁶Philip A. Du Mont, *Birds of Iowa*, (Iowa City, Iowa, 1935), p. 58.

⁷*National Geographic Magazine*, LXX:461-62.

⁸*Ibid.*

large untouched tracts of woodland in which to range and rear its young. But how long did our timber last? It was cleared as quickly as possible, and with it went our ruffed grouse so that today only a few are left. The loss of our timber, and the inevitable smoking gun, combined effectively to place the grouse among the scarce or rare game birds of Iowa.⁹

Although a ground bird, the grouse never gathered in as large flocks as did the more gregarious turkey, more often maintaining a semi-isolation in small flocks of a half dozen or so. The young are hatched in nests hollowed out of the ground, usually near the foot of a tree, and lined with dry leaves. Even though as many as sixteen eggs are sometimes laid, nesting cover is so scarce in Iowa that the bird does not appear to increase. Some states, though, do have enough birds left for limited hunting seasons.¹⁰

Their drumming, one of the distinctive features of the ruffed grouse, comes as a dull throb through the still woodlands, slowly increasing in speed until it becomes a muffled roar, then it ceases suddenly. If one could trace the sound, he would find a grouse cock strutting on a hollow log, his neck ruffs spread, his tail at an angle, beating the log with his swiftly moving wings. The bird is calling his mates, or perhaps challenging some distant rival, who will answer from his own favorite drumming log.

In the case of the prairie chicken, however, when the prairies were first broken and crops planted the birds remained and even increased, because of the help offered their winter feeding by the settler's shock and stack. And, until settlements became too thick, the prairie chicken adjusted itself to changing crowded conditions, and tended to cling "to the locality in which it was hatched and raised."¹¹ Perhaps these two reasons account in part for the report of one man that actually more prairie chickens were to be seen near the towns and villages of years ago than out on the open prairies. Nonetheless, though frequenting the habitations of man, the bird would not become domesticated, despite the several at-

⁹Du Mont, p. 56.

¹⁰*The Book of Birds*, The National Geographic Society, p. 235.

¹¹*The Register & Leader*, Des Moines, Iowa, March 15, 1909.

tempts on the part of bird lover made in later years as the species dwindled.¹²

The birds seemed inexhaustable and scant heed was given to any thought of their protection. So common were their appearance on pioneer tables, so easily procured, that many a threshing crew had occasion to pray for "deliverance" from a larder heavily stocked with these birds. Older residents probably can still recall the vast numbers of "chickens" that were to be found in the prairie regions and even in the smaller clearings in the more wooded sections too, how thick they were at feeding grounds in the winter, and how their booming voices could be heard in the courting season of the spring.¹³

The largest single factor in the vanishing of this small game bird—small compared with the wild turkey—was the hunter's gun. During the hunting season, in more than one Iowa town, in Burlington and Waterloo, for instance, the kill of the huntsmen was taken by regular shippers and hurried off to eastern markets.¹⁴ In Fort Dodge, Rees, McBane & Marlatt, real estate speculators and general merchants, found both the demand and the supply so good that they found it profitable to advertise on November 28: "Prairie Chickens Wanted.—We are prepared to buy all the PRAIRIE CHICKENS that will be brought to us during the cold weather this season."^{14a} In the winter of 1871-1872, 300 dozens of these birds were shipped from Waterloo alone. They were so numerous, and yet the demand so good, that as one Iowan recounted, there are "innumerable half sections in Wright, Franklin and Hancock counties from which market shooters have carried away and sold birds enough to pay for farms twice over in those days, when the birds were plentiful and cheap." The business of supplying the eastern markets was a coldly calculating one according to John C. Hartman, who as the birds were becoming really scarce in Iowa described the first period of recurrent scarcity as being the result of trapping and market shooting. "The half grown chicks were shot in July and August," he observed, "and those that

¹²*Iowa City Republican*, September 14, 1908.

¹³*Waterloo Courier*, February 25, 1911.

¹⁴*Burlington Hawkeye*, Jan. 9, 1910; *Register & Leader*, March 15, 1909.

^{14a}*Iowa Northwest*, Dec. 26, 1864.

escaped were trapped during the winter by farmers and men who made a business of catching them in traps constructed of lath and baited with corn." The results of these forays into the countryside were huge, Hartman recalled as a boy of having seen "three wagons with top box loads of chickens drive into Waterloo in the winter of 1871-72." Drawing from a large surrounding territory, the particular birds Hartman referred to came from Grundy County.¹⁵

Not only were there the so-called "market hunter," but many a weekly newspaper in the middle years of the last century carried an occasional item calling all interested gunmen to assemble for a "chicken hunt" on a certain date. The results of these "sporting" events often reached an astounding bloody total. So plentiful were the birds that a hundred to a single gun were not unrecorded feats of arms.¹⁶ Due to both types of invasions, the commercial butcher and the sporting man, the prairie chicken population markedly dwindled in the seventies, but when the thinning supply of available birds no longer served to attract the commercial hunter, and when the reduced number of flocks no longer made the week-end outings gala gory affairs for even a poor shot, the bird began to increase again. This success only brought tragedy, for as the bird population increased and once more made it profitable for hunters to supply eastern markets with their meat, the market hunters invaded the prairies to wreak their ruinous toll again. And the sporting element likewise took a heedless levy upon the bird. Thus in the middle and late eighties the obvious depopulation of the prairie chickens again brought a period wherein the bird was not so ruthlessly hunted. Recurrent phases of this cycle appeared until about the close of the last century when the second major factor in the disappearance of the bird in Iowa caused their almost complete extinction in this state.¹⁷

Properly called the prairie chicken, the bird failed to adapt itself to domestication because of its refusal to nest in other than virgin prairie soil. As the decades mounted and the

¹⁵*Register & Leader*, March 15, 1909.

¹⁶*Burlington Hawkeye*, Jan. 9, 1910; *Marshalltown Times-Republican*, Sept. 8, 1905.

¹⁷*Register & Leader*, March 15, 1909.

century wore on, that particular kind of soil in Iowa grew less and less. The bird, therefore, was driven farther and farther west by the settler who poached upon the virgin soil. So resistless was this encroachment that according to a report in 1905, the last thirty years had seen the "chicken" almost exterminated.¹⁸ Some still remained, but their number was not ten percent of what they totaled twenty years before. In many a county, the destruction of the bird and the placing of land under cultivation so great that the change was definite and permanent; no longer was it possible to state with a semblance of veracity that "there were more prairie chickens than poultry" in certain counties.

Since that time the decrease in prairie chickens has continued as the area of the state in which the birds are found has decreased. Our state now has precious little of virgin prairie soil left, and as a result only a few prairie chickens. Thirty years ago, one student of the chicken found that he had to go into central Nebraska before he could find the bird in sufficient numbers to study its habits. And that condition hardly exists today. In some neighboring states, however, enough birds remain to support an open hunting season.

Perhaps the most publicized of the once common birds of the middle west, and for that matter, of all inland America, is the passenger pigeon, more frequently called the "wild pigeon" in the early days. This slender long bodied bird differed from the others mentioned above in that for Iowa it was a migrant species, and moved into the state almost solely during its migratory season as it sought food and nesting grounds farther north, or during the southward migration in the autumn.

But unquestionably, in the very early days of Iowa, before the Civil War, the large noisy flocks of these swift flying high shouldered birds were common sights to Iowans. They did not appear in the relatively small flocks of the prairie chickens and the grouse, or even the wild turkey, but rather in sky-darkening clouds that often resembled a roaring thunder in the beating of wings and the blackening aspect of the heavens. In neighboring states it is recorded that sometimes hours were

¹⁸*Marshalltown Times-Republican*, Sept. 8, 1905.

required for a good sized flock to pass, and that they occasionally seemed continuous for days, and so thick that the sun was obscured. Alexander Wilson, an early American ornithologist, estimated conservatively that some of these flocks must have counted millions—millions in sight at one time.¹⁹ Moving in unison and with the muffled thunder of their wings heard for miles around, the flocks usually sought oak timbers, tamarack, hemlock, or groves of beechnut trees. When this noisy invasion and winged avalanche settled for the night in a grove of trees the whirring and beating of wings grew to a roar as the birds fought for room to roost.²⁰ They alighted in such crowded numbers, that aside from trampling upon one another, their packed weight was so great that they often broke branches off their roosting trees. And if they stopped on a newly sown field, the ravenous host swept it bare of every kernel in an hour.²¹

The passenger pigeon, however, was never so common in Iowa as in the eastern central states, notably Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Consequently, the bird did not commonly nest in this state, although there are records of nestings and hatchings, few and scattered to be sure. A few nested along the Yellow River in northeastern Iowa, and are reported by Philip Du Mont as having bred in Woodbury, Sac, Cerro Gordo, Floyd and Jackson counties as well. But the greater part of these numberless flocks moved on to the dark forests of Michigan and the hemlock, tamarack, and beechnut groves of the east for nesting, where also a larger supply of food was available to them. In those areas where they did nest in the hundreds of thousands, their colonies were in keeping with the size of their flocks. Audubon tells of one such colony that extended forty miles in length and was three miles in width.²² In nesting as in roosting, the birds so crowded together that limbs would break and the ground would be littered with the remains of nests, eggs, and young. Their droppings fell as rain on the timber floor. Not a belligerent bird, quite on the contrary,

¹⁹*Ibid.*

²⁰*Auk*, New Series, XXVII:428-443; XXVIII:346-366, 427-449.

²¹*Marshalltown Times-Republican*, Sept. 8, 1905; *Auk*. *ibid.*

²²*Clinton Herald*, Dec. 1, 1910; *Cf. Auk*, *Supra*.

termed by some a coward, this is sometimes offered as the explanation for their unusual acceptance of the crowded conditions of nesting and roosting.²³

By virtue of being a "way station" in the migratory life of the bird, the passenger pigeon was not hunted in Iowa to the same devastating extent it was in other states. The crowded nature of their nesting and roosting, together with the whirling roar which accompanied the flocks at rest or in flight, and which announced their presence to the whole countryside, made them easy prey to the bloody hunter and farmer, who gathered about the roosting or feeding woods at sunset with guns, clubs, nets, and torches, ready for the slaughter.²⁴ Accounts of this slaughter are now almost unbelievable, though generally agreed upon by contemporaries of those years. Some of these market "hunters" bagged as many as 500 a day, most of which were packed and shipped to market. When the wholesale butchers could carry away no more, hogs were let loose to fatten on what remained, or else the birds were left on the ground to rot.

One account of this mass killing relates that in three years 990,000 dozens of these birds were shipped from western Michigan to New York. Another report states that in 1869 three carloads a day, each car carrying 150 barrels of passenger pigeons, were shipped from Hartford, Michigan, for forty days. The almost unbelievable toll of these seemingly innumerable birds also records that in less than five months, according to one writer, a million and a half birds were shipped from a single Michigan town, and some 80,000 more birds were shipped alive for use in trap shooting. Still another report claims that in 1850 shiploads of these birds were at New York piers, loaded in bulk, sent to the market to sell at a cent apiece!²⁵

Yet so common was the bird that all this shooting, clubbing, and trapping seemed to have had no effect on their numbers, at least few gave any thought to the wild pigeon's possible extinction. Inexorably, however, the ranks of the passenger pigeon began to thin, a trend noted even as early as 1853.

²³*Auk*, New Series, XXVIII:412-13; *National Geographic Magazine*, LXX:495.

²⁴*Clinton Herald*, Dec. 1, 1910; *Davenport Democrat*, Sept. 13, 1914. See also W. G. Mershon, *The Passenger Pigeon*, New York, 1907, especially chaps. 7-10.

²⁵*Ibid.*, *The Book of Birds*, p. 252; the *National Geographic Magazine*, LXX:495.

Some observers tried to comfort themselves with the suggestion that the birds had gone to South America, or some other distant place. When that myth was exploded, the bird, once hunted by men given protection of the laws, became instead the coddled darling of ornithologists.

Although it had been sighted by many of the early explorers in the Mississippi Valley and up the Missouri, by Lewis and Clarke, Long, and Pike, and others of that hardy race, there are very few records proving the numerous presence of the bird in Iowa. The last great flights through Iowa were between 1868 and 1870.²⁶ An idea of how scarce the bird quickly became may be gathered from the fact that the last known nesting place of the bird in large flocks anywhere was in Michigan, in 1877,²⁷ and that in Iowa collecting and sight records of the bird began to be recorded as early as the 1880's, as things of note. W. H. B. Greenwood collected a male bird in Delaware County in 1881, but that record was preceded by Mr. F. V. Hayden of Woodbury County in 1856, when Sioux City was but a small cluster of quickly built houses.²⁸ Small flocks of the birds were reported from a number of the eastern river counties, notably Jackson and Lee in the 1890's, and even a small flock in Polk County in the middle of the state is recorded in 1899. But the large flocks of the 1860's and 1870's never reappeared. By the turn of the century the bird was gone.²⁹

The last known passenger pigeon collected in Iowa was taken in Lee County in 1896, by W. E. Praeger, but no one knows what became of this bird. The last sight records of the passenger pigeon, 1903, as well as some of the previous ones at the turn of the century, cannot be unqualifiedly accepted, since they could easily have been confused with common mourning dove.³⁰

²⁶Du Mont, p. 80.

²⁷*Clinton Herald*, Dec. 1, 1910.

²⁸Du Mont.

²⁹*Ibid.*

³⁰*Davenport Democrat*, Sept. 13, 1914. The last bird reported shot in the United States was taken in 1904, though sight records, outside of private aviaries, extend down to 1907. The last known specimen, a female, aged twenty-nine years, and itself hatched in captivity, died in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1914.

The truth of what caused the passenger pigeons to disappear probably will never be known, but many possible reasons are given. Some feel that shooting and the destruction of the birds themselves brought about their extinction, that the cutting of timber and destruction of feeding grounds led to a great food shortage, so weakening the flock that disease or parasites claimed the remainder. Others believe that a storm or some other natural disaster caused the decimation of the flock, and cite records of a storm over Lake Michigan after which huge numbers of passenger pigeons washed ashore. At any rate, one of the most numerous birds in history is gone. Never again will its flocks darken the sun, never again will oak trees break under the weight of perching birds, never again will millions of them be shipped east to market. They have joined the ranks of the dodo and Labrador duck.³¹

When Audubon visited Iowa in 1843, he found several birds which are no longer common in the state. On May 8, he tells of seeing Louisiana paroquets; he also mentions them on May 10. Audubon's notes for October also record "plenty of sand-hill cranes." He says that geese and ducks were abundant beyond description.³²

The Louisiana paroquet, a gay little fellow, marked a good deal like the polly in many people's homes, was reported by other early travelers to occur along the streams of Iowa. There is a record of a small flock of them in Decatur County as late as 1872.³³ This bird, like so many others, is considered extinct today, and unfortunately we have no collected specimens taken in Iowa and our records are therefore not very substantial.

But with the coming of man, many of the birds Audubon saw have passed on or have remained only in greatly diminished numbers. The whooping crane and eskimo curlew have disappeared entirely, and the whooping crane's cousin, the sand-hill crane, has almost entirely deserted the state. The trump-

³¹*The Book of Birds*, p. 252.

³²*Annals of Iowa*, XVI:414-419, *passim*.

³³Du Mont, p. 281.

eter swan, which once nested occasionally in the state, has not been seen since 1900, and its numbers are now reduced almost to the point of extinction. Only a few birds remain, in Yellowstone National Park and in Montana, where they are being carefully protected in the hope that their numbers will increase. The whistling swan still occurs in Iowa, but is not nearly as common at it once was.³⁴

Many others of the birds which the early settlers found in Iowa commonly are now considerably reduced in number. And the answer in almost all cases appears to have been man—man's over-shooting, man's cutting of timbers, man's plowing of prairie, man's draining of prairie marshlands, man's reducing of feeding grounds and nesting sites. The question of the future lies strictly with man. He can, if he will, preserve many of the remaining birds, so that future generations will not need to turn to books to learn about some bird of which their grandfathers tell.

³⁴*Ibid.*, p. 10.

LETTERS OF JAMES W. GRIMES

(Concluded From October, 1940)

Dr Kirkwood

I have just reced letters from Allemakee, Clayton &c. It is all trash about there being a particle of trouble in the north & it is not true that any part of our ticket will lose any strength in any of the northern counties. So far from it, there are strong hopes expressed by our friends that we shall make considerable gains in every county, I just saw an intelligent man from Marion County. He says the Hollanders are nearly all going with Scholte⁵³ and that we shall carry the county by as large a maj. as the democrats have usually done it viz 200. As evidence that the democrats surrender the county, they are going in for a peoples ticket. Dr. Walker was here yesterday from Ft. Madison & wanted me to speak once or twice in Lee County before the election, telling me that he had not the most remote doubt about the republicans carrying the county.

Kasson has written me that we shall be apt to lose votes in Davis Appanoose, Monroe, Lucas, Clark, Decatur & Wayne on account of the nomination of Rusch for Lieut. Gov. and wanting me to go out there before the election. In the first place, I am not conscious that I have a bit of influence out there & in the second place I do not believe there is much truth in the report. I do not doubt that in the counties named Rusch will run five to seven hundred votes behind his ticket, but that is nothing, he can very well afford to lose them, considering what we gain elsewhere through his name. And is it not strange that Americans, or nativists should be so anxious to run-under the very man who was most anxious to secure the passage of a registry law. Our friends are all speaking well of the noble manner in which Judge Edwards has acted & is acting in connection with this matter & with Lieut. Governorship. I think the consequence will be that he will be our candidate for Cong. next year. I have determined

⁵³Henry P. Scholte, leader of the emigrant group of Hollanders who settled at Pella, Iowa, in 1847, was formerly a Democrat, but changed his allegiance to the Republican party in 1859.

to favor his nomination all I can consistently with my position, for I think he deserves well of our party.

Every thing is cheering in every direction. We shall sweep the state by double our usual majority. I do not know & I cannot imagine a republican vote in Iowa that Dodge can secure, whilst *I do know* many democratic votes that he will lose. Our Judges will be scratched in different counties for local causes & so will theirs be, leaving the thing out about even, I guess. Write to me often, I reced. the letter from Dryden Smith giving the facts in relation to the Decorah Land office. You will hear further from that matter in due time.

Your friend, truly
James W. Grimes

29th July 1859

Dr Kirkwood

Yours from Ottumwa is at hand. No matter where Dodge may go, or how much it may be necessary to change your appointments to be with him you must not fail to keep by his side until the day of election, and if possible bring him around into the northern & more populous counties.

Keep him on the defensive, & see that he is well "stired up" all the time. Make him particularize in what I hid when I canvassed the state, (for I may wish to have something to say on that subject) and lead him on to abuse Harlan & myself just as much as possible. The more he flounders about in his abuse of others the better. Stick the division of the State question at him among other things.

The news is cheering from every quarter. We shall largely increase our majority of last year I am confident and without much extra exertion. The American question in the Southern tier is their great card to play. Write me in reply to this how you find things in Davis, Appanoose, Wayne, Decatur, Lucas & Clarke.

All is right in the north. You are finding Dodge to be as big a fool as I represented him to be, I think.

Your friend, truly
James W Grimes

Augst 2, 1859

Dr Kirkwood

I have attended to the fugitive slave business. Dodge will not make many points in the game from that thing. No news. Every thing is right all over the state. I had letters to-day from Wiltse, Woudson [?] & many others north. Vandever, Hamilton, &c are all going to take the stump.⁶⁴

Be sure to always get Dodge mad. Show him always to be a fool, as he is. You are going to have to get nearly over the whole state, or nearly so. Put in your best lies, our friends are jubilant wherever you have been.

Your friend

JWGrimes

Augst 5th 1859

Dr Kirkwood

We have now heard from all of the Counties that voted last year except Carroll, Cherokee, Crawford, Dickinson, Monona, Plymouth & Sac which then gave 71 maj. for Sells Your majority as we count it up to this time is 3100 & will probably go to about 3200

You have got a difficult task before you for two years to navigate the ship of state without a cent of money. There is now due to the state from the several counties between three and four hundred thousand dollars and no taxes will be paid this year, for there is no money in the country to pay with. The government has got to be carried on principally upon credit. You must put on your thinking cap & begin to devise the ways & means of doing it.

We must abolish our present county system & give the *people* a change [sic] to govern themselves a little more than they do under the County Judge system. County officers should be paid by fees as formerly & the amt. paid should be decreased to onehalf of what it is now. These little naturalization machines in every County will never answer us. Send the County Judge to purgatory.

We must have a good, stringent registry law. There is no

⁶⁴William Vandever, surveyor and a leading military figure in the Civil War, was the elected Republican member of Congress, 1859-61, when he resigned to accept an army commission. Later served in Congress from California. W. W. Hamilton, railroad attorney in northern Iowa, member of the 5th and 6th state legislatures, was mentioned for lieutenant governor in 1859.

danger in passing such a law. We have hitherto been frightened about it. No man should vote within thirty days after being naturalized and no man should vote who had not been registered at least five days. If the republicans do not pass such a law next winter they ought not to have a majority in another legislature & I doubt very much if they will have.

There is a practice in this state of paying money from the Treasury without any appropriation being made & right in the face & eyes of the Constitution which declares that this shall not be done. For instance, the constitution or the law declares that a certain officer shall receive a certain salary. It has been the practice to audit & pay that amount to the officer upon the law affixing the salary & sometimes without a specific appropriation. The constitution declares that not a dollar shall be paid without this specific appropriation. I do not know that any wrong has been done under this practice. It has existed ever since the government was established. No evil could grow out of it as long as we retained our present state officers, but nonetheless, the practice should be checked as soon as you are inaugurated.

You will have trouble at the Penitentiary. It has always been a nuisance in the state & always will be. It would be too tedious to give you a history of the origin & progress of the trouble there. But keep them on a short allowance, & thus curb their unruly [?] spirits a little.

The asylum at Vinton ought not to have a cent—their is not a cent to spend, because there is no pressing demand for its completion & because there is no need for such a building as they are putting up.

Above all things else give us a registry law and abolish the country organization.

I leave for Washington in about three weeks. I hope you will not fail to write to me often, & keep me advised of what is going on in Iowa.

Yours truly
James W Grimes

Burlington Oct 25th 1859

Our democrats are ed, mad & desperate (?). They expected to carry the state with money. They have spent their

money. they alienated personal friends, they have belittled themselves in their own estimation & have accomplished nothing by it. Dodge has not been seen for some days.

Burlington, Iowa, Oct. 27th 1859
(copy)

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 12th Sept. inviting me to furnish a short memoir of myself came duly to hand.

There are no events in my life worthy of record. I have done nothing to distinguish me above the great mass of my fellow men.

I was born in the town of Deering. Hillsboro County, New Hampshire, on the 20th Oct. 1816. My parents were John Grimes and Betsy Wilson, both of whom were born in the same town and both sprang from Scotch Irish parentage- the mother from the settlement at Londonderry N. H. and the father from a small band of Scotch Irish Presbyterians, who settled in Boston in the early part of the eighteenth Century. My father was a farmer. I am the youngest of a family of seven Children.

I was prepared for College at Hampton Academy N. H. then under the Charge of Rev Roswell Harris, and entered Dartmouth College in August 1832.— remained in College two and a half years and then commenced the study of the law with James Walker Esqr. in Peterboro N. H. I settled in Burlington, then Michigan, afterwards Wisconsin & now Iowa, in May 1836, and have resided here ever since. The Territory of Iowa was created July 4th 1838, and at the first election in the month of August following I was elected a member of the first Genl. Assembly, and was Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives, all laws for the new Territory passing through my hands. I have been several times since Elected to the Territorial & State Legislatures, though I have always been in a political minority in the County.

On the 9th Nov. 1846 I was married to Elizabeth Sarah Neally of Lee New Hampshire.

In August 1854 I was Elected Governor of Iowa for the term of four years.

In January 1858 [1859] I was Elected a Senator of the United States from the state of Iowa for the term of six years from the 4th March 1859.

I have done nothing & said nothing to justify you in placing my name in your book. I am only entitled to a place there, if at all, by the accident of my Election to the Senate.

You are at liberty to make what use you please with the foregoing facts, putting them, of course, into your own phraseology.

Wishing you the greatest possible success with your publication

I subscribe myself
Very truly your obdt. servt.
James W. Grimes

Rev. W. D. Haley
Washington

Washington, Nov. 30th 1859

Dr Kirkwood

Well, here I am boarding at your namesakes & relatives and living in a private house belonging to them just across the street from their hotel. They both appear to be very clever fellows & do every thing in the world to make me comfortable. Do you ever write to them? I do not doubt that they would be pleased to get a letter from Gov. Kirkwood.

Every thing here in relation to the organization of the House of Rep. is at sixes & sevens, though Sherman told me last evening that he felt quite confident of his election as Speaker of the House. I hope he may be elected & I am doing all I can to aid him, though of course my influence would amount to but very little. The two representatives from Iowa are for him & so are most of the men from Illinois & Wisconsin. All of our northwestern men ought to go for him for we have never had a Speaker from the northwest.

There never was such a fearful state of alarm as at this time prevails in that part of Virginia bordering on Pa. Every

sensible man knows that there is not a human being who will attempt or who has thought of attempting to rescue old Brown, yet Gov. Wise, for the advancement of his own selfish purposes in a political point of view, has marched his troops up & down the state and has so played upon the fears & prejudices [?] of the people that they are actually beside themselves with dread.⁵⁵ But day after to-morrow, when they hang old Brown, their fears will probably be relieved.

I suppose you are about this time cogitating over your inaugural.

I want you to write to me often from Iowa City & let me know what goes on there

Your friend, truly,
James W. Grimes.

Washington Dec. 26th 1859

Dr Kirkwood

Your favor is at hand. The cadets at the Military & Naval Academies are selected from each representative district by the Member of the House & the Senators have nothing to do with them. I think there is no vacancy from your district, but I will show your letter to Vandever. I wrote you a few days ago on a subject about which I feel some interest. I trust that you & Dr. B. will be able to assure me that all my fears are groundless.

The State Convention soon assembles to appoint delegates to the Chicago Convention. Do not let the delegates be instructed & send men who are not mere traders in politics. You ought to be one of the delegates & I hope you will see to it that you are appointed. I would select a goodly number to cast the vote of Iowa.

If you appoint electors I would suggest Saml Miller of Keokuk & Wilson of Fairfield. They are both efficient canvassers & would help our congressional & state candidates a good deal. We must have a thorough canvass of the state next year & bring our majority up to six or eight thousand. Have good men appointed delegates & have them divided fairly between old whigs & old democrats, & entirely un-

⁵⁵John Brown, the abolitionist agitator, well known in Iowa due to his trips and visitations there.

committed to every [?] one—men who will try to nominate for the good of the party & not for the benefit of themselves. Why dont' you write.

Yours
James W Grimes

The enclosed is from Gov. Wise of Va. & shows his view of the discriminations in favor of slave property contained in the Kansas-Nebraska bill for which Gen. Dodge voted & of which vote he boasts. I wrote you this morning I have several letters from various quarters. Every thing is as it should be all over the state so far as I can learn. I am praising the diligent stimulating the lazy, advising those who are willing to labor, and doing the best I can to set all our squadrons in the field as they should be brought.

I am very anxious that you should put the General through his paces in the northern & central counties

Yours
Grimes

[S. J. Kirkwood]

(Private)

Dr Kirkwood.

I think it is fully settled in the minds of our republican friends that you are to be our candidate for Gov. There is no one talked of at all, save you & Lowe & our friends are pretty much all for you, so far as I can learn.

Your deference to the feelings, enmity and declarations of Mr. W. Penn Clarke is all very nice & chivalric, but you must remember that you must defer somewhat to the feelings & opinions of your friends also. If you prefer to hold off, with a view to another office, very well: I cannot advise you in relation to that. But, I must say that you ought not to hold back out of respect to a man who always has been and always will be bitterly hostile to you, thus disregarding the wishes of a vast majority of your friends. I hope therefore you will say to every one who approaches you on the subject, that you are not clamorous, or importunate for the office, but that you are in the hands of your party friends & will take the nomination, if it be tendered to you.

The democrats are in a very bad way, indeed, for candidates. Dodge will not be their man, & they have no one except drunken Bill Leffingwell, for Samuels, Fisher, Johnston all decline.⁶⁶ Besides, there is bound to be a split among them. The Douglass & Buchanan parties are irreconcilable. The Douglass men are resolved to denounce Buchanan & the administration in their state convention & if they do, the Buchanan men will organize in opposition.

They are quite as badly off for candidates for Judges. Who on earth have they? J. C. Hall,⁶⁷ who gets drunk every day & fell down a pair of stairs a few days ago in that condition, is the favorite candidate. God only knows where the other two are to come from. Take it all in all, there was never before this such miserably besotted, demoralized party as is the present democratic party in this state & nation. The Gazette in this place is *defunct* after an existence of twenty two years. It will probably be revived, but how? when? & by whom? no one knows. This, in a democratic county, indicates the condition of the party.

Your friend, truly
James W. Grimes

Washington, Jany 25 1860

Dr Kirkwood

I am not able to pronounce judgement on your inaugural for I have not see it, but I have seen democratic comments on it & from those, judge it to be a production alike creditable to you and damaging to them. I think I have now some reason to believe that that the democratic bitterness will hereafter be turned from me and —— [hurled?] at you & so far as this may be the effect of your address I certainly have cause to be gratified. Why does not some one send me a copy of it?

⁶⁶William E. Leffingwell, Democratic leader in Iowa, was member of the 1, 3, 4 state legislatures, and was several times the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for state and congressional office; Benj. M. Samuels, Democratic leader of Dubuque, was member of the 5th state legislature, and was the party's unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1857; Maturin L. Fisher, member of the state legislature, superintendent of public instruction, was later a commissioner for the construction of the present state house; Ed Johnston of Keokuk, was an early prominent member of the party, member of the 2, 3, 4, territorial legislatures.

⁶⁷J. C. Hall, judge of the state supreme court in 1854, served in the 8th general assembly as a Democrat.

I do not believe that there will be an organization of the House of Rep before the Charleston Convention which assembles on the 25th April next. About forty of the extreme gulf state men are open & avowed disunionists & want the government to run down like an old clock for want of winding & repairs. Another set do not want to vote for or against the admission of Kansas until after the democratic nominee shall be selected and the President & his retainers are unwilling that it should be organized at all under a republican speaker.

The President is playing into the hands of the disunionists all of the time, as was evidenced by his appointment of Faulkner⁵⁸ to the Mission to France. The truth is, we are gradually approaching a rupture. All northern men, democrats as well as others are being driven out of the South, and that whole section is giving loose rein to the most boisterous passions & thereby relapsing into a state of barbarism. There is almost a perfect nonintercourse between members here, socially [?] and northern men must in the very nature of things begin to look with indifference upon a union with barbarism & violence [?] & shame.

I cant' believe that the republicans will abandon Sherman⁵⁹. I know that some of them will not do so if the House remains unorganized until the 4th March 1861.

Yours very truly

James W. Grimes

Washington, Feb. 25th 1860

Dr Kirkwood

Yours of the 17th inst. is at hand. I have a copy of Gov. Letchers⁶⁰ message about you— & will send it in a day or two. It has been intimated to me that Toombs⁶¹ intends to attack you to-morrow & if so I intend to speak just six words in reply to him & in defense of you— I corrected him a few weeks ago in regard to his statements about Iowa & my

⁵⁸Charles J. Faulkner, of Virginia. He was subsequently appointed to the "French mission."

⁵⁹John Sherman of Ohio.

⁶⁰Governor Letcher of Virginia severely denounced Gov. Kirkwood of Iowa for failing to honor a warrant for the arrest of Barclay Coppie of Springdale, a member of Brown's Harper Ferry raiders.

⁶¹Robert Toombs of Georgia, representative and Senator from 1845-61.

manner was intentionally rather defiant. He says he is coming back at me some time— told Mr. Simmons of R. I. so, & he has the floor to-morrow, but I do not know for what purpose.

We are doing nothing here— Congressional life & Congressional honors are a humbug.

Yours truly
James W. Grimes

Washington March 12th 1860

Dr Kirkwood

Your message in regard to Coppic⁶² has not reached me though I saw your ——— of the Senate some days ago, which was just & right. I presume your message will reach me in a few days.

You ask if I have been sick. I was sick for a month after I got here & then, about a month ago I dislocated my right thumb so that I was disabled from writing. This is very dull business—I am heartily sick & tired of it. Douglass is a “dead dog” politically. Breckenridge will be nominated at Charleston, I think. That is the general impression at present. Seward will probably be the republican nominee

Your friend, truly
James W. Grimes

Dr Gov.

I am importuned every day & annoyed by letters to address the people in various parts of the State. I suppose I will have to make a few speeches. Suppose we advertise to speak before the election in say ten places together.

Say Du Buque, Cedar Rapids, West Union, Washington, Ottumwa, Centerville, Winterset, Des Moines, Muscatine, Fort Madison, or if these places do not suit you name some others. “Barker’s is willing”

Yours truly
James W. Grimes

[1860?]

⁶²Barclay Coppic, one of two Iowa members of Brown’s raiders.

Washington Jany 9, 1861

Dr Sir

I did not at first understand your telegraphic dispatch. Hence the answer we sent. We have appeared in the convention as delegates, & shall act. The congressional delegation from Maine will also present themselves this morning.

I learn from Hoxie,⁶³ now here, that Warren intends to be a candidate for Gov. next summer if he does not go into the cabinet. What did you learn at Springfield as to this latter matter?

Yours truly
J W Grimes

[S. J. Kirkwood]

Washington, Jan 28, 1861.

My Dear Sir.^{63a}

Your esteemed favor of the 17th inst. has reached me.

There appears to be a general misunderstanding in the public mind as to the present condition of affairs at the Capital of the nation, and especially in relation to the demands of the disunionists upon the Union men of the North. I find that the impression prevails quite extensively that the 'Crittenden proposition,' as it is called, is simply a re-establishment of the Missouri Compromise line. This is very far from the truth.

Mr. Crittenden proposes to extend the lines of 36 deg. 30 min. through to the Pacific ocean, and to agree by Constitutional provision to protect and defend slavery in all of the Territory of the United States South of that line. Nor is this all. *He now proposes that this protection to Slavery shall be extended to all Territory that may hereafter be acquired South of that line.* The sum and substance of the whole matter is we are asked for the sake of peace, to surrender all of our cherished ideas on the subject of slavery, and agree, in effect, to provide a slave code for the Territories south of 36 deg. 30 min. and for the Mexican provinces as soon as they shall be brought within our jurisdiction. It is demanded of

⁶³H. M. Hoxie, Secretary of the Republican State Central Committee, was later appointed U. S. Marshal for Iowa by Lincoln.

^{63a}Hon. Sam. J. Kirkwood, Gov. Iowa, in *Fort Dodge Republican*, Feb. 26, 1861.

us that we shall consent to change the Constitution into a genuine pro-slavery instrument, and to convert the government into a great slave-breeding, slavery-extending empire.

Every man blessed with ordinary foresight must see what would be the inevitable and almost immediate consequence of the adoption of this provision as a part of the Constitution. It would disclose itself to be the very reverse of a measure of peace. Raids would at once begin upon the provinces of Mexico; war would ensue; the annexation of Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas and other provinces would follow; they would be converted, at the instant of their acquisition, from free into slave Territories, and ultimately be admitted into the Union as slave States.—Much as I love peace and seek to pursue it I am not prepared to pay this price for it. Let no man in Iowa imagine for a moment that the Crittenden proposition is for the mere restoration for the Compromise line of 1820. It is simply and truly the *application* of the Breckinridge platform to all Territory now acquired or *hereafter to be acquired* south of 36 deg. 30 minute, and would result, if adopted, in the acquisition and adoption of new Slave States for the ostensible purpose of restoring what is called the equilibrium of the sections. The restoration of the Missouri Compromise line has been offered to the disunionists and contemptuously rejected. Their maxim is “rule or ruin.”

I confess [sic] that I look with amazement upon the course of Northern sympathizers with the disunionists. Six years ago they insisted to break down a compromise of thirty-four years standing, and defended their action by what they claimed to be the right of the people to determine for themselves what should be the character of their domestic institutions. There was much plausibility in their argument. They made a party creed of it. Now, after the lapse of six short years, they have become so pro-slavery in their opinions that they are willing to ignore the past and recognize and protect slavery in the very country which they boasted that their own act had made free.

There are other provisions in the Crittenden resolutions which to my mind are wholly inadmissible, but let them pass.

My objection is to any compromise. I will never consent to compromises or to the imposition of terms upon me or the people I represent under threats of breaking up the government. I will "not give reasons under compulsion." No surer or more effectual way could be devised for converting this into a revolutionary Government than the adoption of a compromise expedient at this time.

Eight months ago the four political parties of this country, in their several Conventions, announced cer [tain] abstract propositions in their platforms which, each believed to be true, and which if acted upon, wo'd in their opinions, most conduce to the prosperity of the whole country. The issues of these propositions was submitted to the people through the ballot boxes. One party was successful, as either might have been but for the lack of votes, and now one of the vanquished parties seeks to overthrow the Government because they were not themselves the victors and will only consent to stay their work of demolition upon the condition that we will agree to make their platform, which is abhorrent to us, a part of the Constitution of the country. After taking their chances for success, and being defeated in a fair and manly contest, they now seek to overthrow the government under which they live and to which they owe allegiance. How rapidly they are following in the footsteps of the Governments of Mexico and South America?

I do not believe the the public mind is now in a condition to calmly consider the great questions involved in the amendments proposed. But suppose the people were willing and anxious that such amendments to the Constitution should be submitted to them; suppose they were in proper frame of mind to weigh them and decide upon their adoption; suppose their adoption was not attempted to be enforced by threats, can we have any assurance that this is the last demand to be made upon us? Can we be certain that success in this instance will not whet the appetite for new concessions and new demands, and that similar threats of secession and revolution will not succeed every future Presidential election? Will the demand for new guarantees stop here? Shall we not be as liable to have our trade paralyzed, our finances deranged,

our National Flag insulted, the public property wrested from us and destroyed, and the Government itself overthrown four years hence, if we amend the Constitution, as we should be if we now stand firmly by our principals and uphold the authority of the government?

The question before the country, it seems to me, has assumed gigantic proportions. It has become something more than the issue on the slavery question growing out of the construction of the Constitution. The issue now before us is whether we have a country—whether or not this is a nation. Is this a Government which Florida, with 80,000 people, can destroy by resolving herself out of the Union and seizing the forts and arsenals within her borders? That is a question for our decision. Can a great and prosperous nation of 33,000,000 of people be destroyed by an act of secession by some of its members? Florida and her sister revolutionary States answer in the affirmative. We deny it. They undertake to act upon their professed belief and secede, or as I term it, rebel against the Government. While they were in this attitude of rebellion, a compromise is presented to us for adoption by which it is proposed, not to punish the rebellious States but to entice them back into the Union. Who does not see that by adopting these compromise propositions we tacitly recognize the right of these States to secede? Their adoption at this time wo'd completely demoralize the Government, and leave it to the power of any State to destroy it. If Florida and South Carolina can secede because the Government declines to adequately protect her iron and coal interest, or New England because her manufactures, or New York because her commerce is not sufficiently protected? I could agree to no compromise until the right to secede was fully renounced, because it wo'd be a recognition of the right of one or more States to break up the Government at their will.

Iowa has a peculiar interest in this question. If this right of State revolution be conceded, her geographical position is such as to place her completely in the power of revolutionary States. Will she agree that one State can secede and take from her the mouth of the Mississippi river, that another can take from her the mouth of the Missouri, and that others

shall be permitted to deprive her of the right of passage to the Atlantic ocean? If she will not agree to this, it becomes her people to insist that the Constitution of the country shall be upheld, that the laws of the land be enforced, and that this pretended right of a State to destroy our National existence shall be sternly and emphatically rebuked. I know the people of Iowa well enough to believe that appeals to their magnanimity, if not successful, will be kindly received and considered, whilst appeals of their fears will pass by them as the idle wind, and that they will risk all things, and endure all things in maintaining the honor of the National flag and in preserving the National Union.

One word more and I close this letter, already too long. At the commencement of the session, before revolution had assumed its present gigantic proportions, before any State had pretended to secede except South Carolina, before the forts and arsenals of the United States had been captured, the flag of the country fired upon and the Capital and the nation threatened, I assented, as a member of the Senatorial Committee of Thirteen, to three propositions, which were to the following effect, viz:

1st. That Congress shall never be permitted to interfere with the domestic institutions of any State, or to abolish slavery therein.

2d. That the several States should be advised to review their legislation in regard to persons of color, and repeal or modify all such laws as might conflict with the Constitution of the United States or with any of the laws of Congress made in pursuance thereof.

3d. To admit Kansas into the Union under the Wyandotte Constitution, and then to admit the remaining territory belonging to the United States as two States, one north and one south of the parallel of 36 deg. 30 min., with the provision that these States might be subdivided and new ones erected therefrom whenever there should be sufficient population for one Representative in Congress upon sixty thousand square miles.

These propositions, if adopted, would have quieted the apprehensions of the Southern people as to the intention of

the people of the Free States to interfere with Slavery in the States, and would have finally disposed of all the territory belonging to the Government. They would have made two very inconvenient States, but they would have settled a very inconvenient question. They would have been adopted without any surrender of principle by anybody or any section, and therefore without any party and personal humiliation. But they were spurned by the Disunionists. They preferred to plunge the country into revolution, and they have done it. It only remains for us now to obey and enforce the laws and show to the world that this Government is strong enough to protect itself from rebellion within as well as from assault without.

The issue now made up for the decision of the people of this country is between law, order, the Union and the Constitution, on the one hand, the revolution, anarchy, dissolution and bloodshed on the other. I do not doubt as to the side you and the people of Iowa will occupy in this contest.

I am, very truly

Your obedient servant,

James W. Grimes.

Washington Dec- 17, 1861

My dear Sir

I assure you that I have not forgotten you- I reced a letter from you last spring written whilst you was in Colorado which I answered at once, but I judge from yours now before me that you never received it.

I will do all I can for Dr. Pease. Todd⁶⁴ controuls all the appointments west of Iowa & we may not succeed, but whatever is in my power shall be freely done.

I have mailed some books to you to day. I shall submit your letter in regard to Colorado matters to the Secty of War.

Yours truly

James W Grimes

[C. C. Carpenter]

⁶⁴John Blair Smith Todd, delegate to Congress from Dakota Territory.

Washington Dec. 15, 1862

Private

Dr Sir

We have about half way had the offer of the resident mission to Denmark for our state. The salary is \$7500, residence Copenhagen. It is not certain that the place can be secured, but we, at present, think it may be.

Do you wish the place if we can secure it, or will you accept it? If not, who do you advise be proposed from Iowa, if we can get it. Answer at once & by telegraph. Yours truly

James W. Grimes

Jas. Harlan

James F. Wilson

[S. J. Kirkwood]

My dear Sir

I beg leave to introduce to your acquaintance the bearer hereof Dr Charles Kessman [?] of New York. Mr. Kessman is a prominent w—— in New York City & is highly recommended to me by my friends.

I commend him to your attention

Your obdt. servt.

J. W. Grimes

Washington, Feb. 16th 1863

Messrs. Fessenden & Sherman

Senators

Burlington March 31, 1863

Dr Gov

I have just reced a letter from a mutual [friend] of ours which contains this expression, "I am pleased with the appointment of Gov. Kirkwood & can divine the cause of his removal out of the United States. Strokes of *cute* policy always win on the political board. Whatever may be thought of Gov. K. by his enemies, it is certain that if he accepts the appointment, the live, sincere element of the republic will be represented at Denmark." This admonishes me that I have not written you since your appointment, & that the reasons

for making it are open to misconstruction. I am vain enough to like to be regarded "*smart*" but I do not for — a reputation for that character of smartness indicated by this extract.

You know very well how you came to be mentioned in connection with this mission for we told you all about it at Washington. When you told us that you had concluded to decline it, the matter was suffered to drop right there & was never thought of afterwards. To secure such places requires such strenuous & persistent effort I did not believe it necessary to notify the President of your determination & the matter entirely passed out of my mind. When suddenly the nomination came to us at the extra session of the Senate, and altho I was satisfied that you did not intend to accept the place, I thought that [to] have your name [withdrawn] after it was announced would cause misapprehension & that the better way would be to have a confirmation & then, if you chose, you could have the credit of resigning. Such, in a word is the whole history of the matter & thus, I presume, you already understand it.

I am once more at home & am most happy to be here. What is doing about our approaching state election? Who are to be our candidates & upon what platform?

Yours truly

J. W. Grimes

[S. J. Kirkwood]

(Strictly private)

Burlington Augt. 10. 1863

Dr Gov-

I reced. two letters last night each saying that there was a scheme on foot to run Warren against me for the Senate, making a coalition between the democrats & some of his retainers [?] No such thing can be carried into execution for very many reasons & I doubt if any such exists. I know how suspicious men are apt to be about matters of this kind & particularly in such inflamible times as these. But I would like to know if the project really has an existence. Have you

heard any thing of it or seen or heard anything that impressed you with the idea that it might be so. I learn that W's. friends are trying to secure as many senators as possible. Let me hear from you.

This in confidence
Your friend,
J. W. Grimes

[S. J. Kirkwood]

Burlington, Oct. 19, 1863

My dear Sir.

I will certainly render you all the aid I can in the direction you indicate. I did so before & was not aware that the printing had been taken from you until you so wrote me. I think it is due to you that it should be returned to you.

We have not merely beaten the so-called democratic party in this state, we have destroyed it.

Yours truly
J. W. Grimes

Washington Dec. 10th, 1863

Dear Gov.

I have sent you the books you desired to your address at Iowa City. I was told to day at the war office that you could re-appoint Col. Merrill [?] as Col. of his regiment & I asked the Adj. Genl. to put that in writing which he agreed to do by to morrow.

I think that the Nonpareil business at Council Bluffs proceeds from the anxiety of Mr. Bell⁶⁵ the member from that county to secure the public printing for that paper of which he is one half owner. I have no idea that it will amount to much, though I judge from letters of his that have been sent to me that he is ready for a trade on almost any terms in order to accomplish his purpose. He is the only man elected by our friends of whom I have heard anything that would indicate opposition to me. But you can judge better of this than I can. I do not think that K. had any thing to do with

⁶⁵Andrew J. Bell, of Council Bluffs, member of the 10th General Assembly.

this mater. The presidents message is almost universally acceptable. I object to nothing in it save the implied admission that the Supreme court may overrule his proclamation. Let me hear from you soon & often.

Your friend

J. W. Grimes

[S. J. Kirkwood]

Washington Jany 30th 1864

Dr Gov.

Yours of the 20th inst. enclosing the resignation of the mission to Denmark came duly to hand & I deposited it in the hands of the secty.

What you say about election this year is the very thing I suggested to you when I last saw you at my house. Of course I am for it & I can imagine that there can be no controversy about your being selected.

I accept your kind congratulations at my re-election. I cannot feel otherwise than grateful & proud of the result. For your aid, so efficient & so disinterested in my behalf, receive my thanks

Your friend, truly

J. W. Grimes

United States Senate Chamber.

Washington, Apr 27 1864

Hon John Sherman

Dr Sir

This will will [sic] serve to introduce to you John Bettman Esq. a citizen of Iowa, once a citizen of Ohio & now a clerk in the Treasury department

Mr. Bettman is one of the leading Germaus in this country a man of integrity ability & great worth.

I commend him to your consideration

Your obdt, servt.

J. W. Grimes

Fairfield, Iowa,

Aug. 22, 1864.

Sir:⁶⁵

The bearer hereof waits upon you for the purpose of securing your approval of the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad Company, which has been organized for the purpose of Constructing the Sioux City branch of the Pacific railroad, in accordance with the act of Congress.

This company fairly and impartially represents the different railway interests involved in the Sioux City connection with the Union Pacific road, as I believe. It thus harmonises the various interests and unites them all in a common effort to give all the effect to the legislation of Congress.

I trust that your approval will be given to this company, as it is without any rival, and is satisfactory to all concerned.

Yours truly,

James F. Wilson

James W. Grimes

His Excelency, A. Lincoln,

President of the United States.

Burlington July 23d 1865

Dr Sir

I have duly reced. your favor of the 6th inst. sent to Washington & thence forwarded to me here.

I would be pleased to assist me [sic] if you can tell me how I can do it. The position of Clerk to the Comtee. on Naval Affairs is filled, to the satisfaction of the members of the Comtee. I think & I do not know any reason why the person holding the appointment should be displaced

I would advise you to apply to Mr. Harlan who now has a large patronage & if you desire it I will write him in your behalf, but I would advise you to first determine what place to apply for.

Yours obdt. Servt.

J. W. Grimes

[?]

⁶⁵ In *Sioux City Register*, May 19, 1866.

(Private)

Burlington Sept. 27, 1865

Dr Gov.

Harlan is here though I have not seen him. I am inclined to believe, from what I hear, that he wants the long term, that Warren wants the short term & that they will make a *dicker* to that effect, or that H. will take the long term & get W- a mission to Europe in place of the mission to Central America.

I think it of vast importance that you go into Allison's district before election

Yours

Grimes

(Private)

Oct. 4. '65

Dr Gov.

I am not sure that there is to be an effort on the part of the gentleman named to secure the long term. I have discovered no evidence of it since I wrote you. I hear from all quarters that you are the "coming man" & I think there can be no trouble about your election, but it is best to make assurance [?] doubly sure, and hence I advise you to see every member possible and not only secure their pledges but prepare their minds to resist the machinations of F. H. W. who will be sure to propose all sorts of *trades & dickers* with every body. I am inclined to think that he will strive for the short term as a military necessity and to accomplish that end will strike hands with the d—l himself. Make no trade with any mortal. The people are for you for both the long & short term and insist upon having both.

I have done and am doing precisely what you suggest I should do.

Do not fail to have a *large outside delegation* of your friends at Des Moines at the commencement of the session to remain until the election, and *let as many of them be military men as possible*. Do nt' fail in this.

Yours truly

J. W. Grimes

Oct. 4, 1865

(Private)

Burlington Oct. 12th 1865

Dr Governor.

Our county gives Stone between 200 & 250 maj. & we elect our whole ticket, which under the circumstances & considering the weights we carried was doing very well,—better indeed than I expected.

It is now *quite certain* that Mr. Harlan is a candidate for reelection to the Senate for the long term. It is so given out by authority. I suppose you have heard that the Hawkeye has been bought by Bamdsly, Postmaster at Oskaloosa & proprietor of the Herald & Edwards also Postmaster at Mt Pleasant & proprietor of the Home Journal. They paid a large price (\$17,000) and the understanding is that it was bought in Harlan's interest, both the proprietors are Methodists & the Methodist church is his strong card & always has been.

No one can tell how Warren will be, but the three representatives were pledged to you before election—two of them I think may be relied on under any circumstances, of the other I have my fears.

Now my good friend, "*stir your stumps*" & go into view. I have no hostility to Harlan—I advised him not to leave the Senate, but when he did leave it & voluntarily pledged himself to you & thus induced you to become a candidate for his succession I think fair play entitles you to the place.

Yours truly

J. W. Grimes

(Private)

Burlington Oct 20, 1865

Dear Gov.

Warren has gone to Washington to perfect the arrangement that some of his friends give out is to be carried into fruition at Des Moines,—at least such is the inference. I find that he has promised the Wardenship of the Penitentiary to one man & I presume it is already promised to a dozen other patriots who are expected to use some influence

in his behalf and will be pledged before the first of January to a hundred & fifty others.

I have no idea that you can be defeated, but it is as well to leave no stone unturned that you can upturn as well as not.

Morrill⁶⁶ of Me. wrote me yesterday that it was rumored at Washington that Harlan would leave the cabinet & that he had been to Iowa to see what the chances were for his old seat. [illegible] *sot*

Yours truly

J. W. Grimes

Burlington Oct. 28, 1865

Dr Gov.

Yours of the 24th inst. is reced. with enclosures. The indications now are that Harlan will not leave the cabinet. Johnson is acting better since the Oct. Election & will not be so desirous of getting rid of him & some others & Harlan evidently thinks so for he has just bought one of the very best houses in Washington & paid \$30,000 for it. It seems to me that he would have hardly made so large an investment in property of that kind if he had not felt that he had a pretty long lease on office in Washington. Warren has gone to Washington to see him & try to cook up some devilty with him, but Nourse's⁶⁷ letter, for Nourse is his right hand man, gives me more assurance that he can be induced to go into no such arrangement than any thing I have seen.

I would like a Colleague through the month of Dec. Tho nothing is ever done that month, but owing principally to Stone's unpopularity I doubt if I would want to be appointed by him. The state wont suffer *very much* if it has only one Senator that month & if no appointment is made, there will be that place to give to Harlan in the event you spoke of, whereas you would dislike to go there thirty days & be superseeded by some one else at the end of that time even if you should be elected for the long term

I think you & Nourse [?] are right about allowing Harlan

⁶⁶Lot Myrick Morrill, Senator from Maine.

⁶⁷C. C. Nourse, a Whig-Republican leader in Iowa, twice attorney general of the state, and a district court judge.

to fill out his own term should he be thrust out by Johnson, though I am satisfied that he (Harlan) *now* expects to remain

Yours truly
J. W. Grimes

Burlington, Nov. 14, 1865

Dr Gov.

I have yours of the 7th inst. & reenclose Deerings⁶⁸ [?] letter as you desire. I have like Nourse reced. a letter (private) from Harlan saying his friends urged him to be a candidate & wanting a frank answer as to what I thought of it. I gave it to him, telling that after he determined to go into the cabinet I committed myself to you as did very many of his best friends and that you thought he was also committed to you. I told him exactly what I thought about it, though I suspect it will do no good for he evidently wanted me to urge him to run. Sells, you know, holds a valuable office under him. The Washington sentiment on the subject is all nonsense & limited to a few clerk [sic] who were appointed under the influence of members of the Iowa delegation.

Yours truly
J. W. Grimes

United States Senate Chamber,
(Private)

Washington, Dec. 2d 1865

Dr Gov.

I have recd your favors & shall on Monday hand the longer letter to Mr. Harlan, though I am satisfied that no good will come of it. He evidently has his heart set upon being returned to the Senate & is moving heaven & earth to accomplish that object. I have let him know exactly what I think about it. Sells & two or three Methodist preachers are traversing the state in his behalf at this moment. Between us he seems to be beside [?] himself. He has bought a house in this city at \$30,000. It will require not less than \$10,000 to furnish it, he has a magnificent carriage [?] etc. on the way from New York with all the accompanymnts & I am told

⁶⁸Nathaniel Cobb Deering, close political friend of James Harlan, held several minor positions through Harlan's influence, and served in Congress from Iowa, 1877-1883.

that it will require \$20,000 per annum to support his establishment, it certainly cant' be done under \$15,000 a year. My fears are that a rally being made of the Methodist Church in his behalf it may eventuate in a split of our party, but should that be so, I cannot but regard Harlan as responsible for it. I regret this *imbroglio* very much for I have always been & am yet a friend of Harlan, and under ordinary circumstances would support him, but I could not honorably do it were I in Iowa after what occurred between us last spring.

I think Warren cant' be a candidate for he has drawn a part of his pay, —Some seven or eight hundred dollars as a minister to Goutumolo. The contest will be confined to you & Harlan. I do not know what you are doing, but he is leaving no stone unturned

I do not wish you to use any thing in this letter as coming from me.

Yours truly

J. W. Grimes

United States Senate Chamber.

Washington, Dec 7th 1865 (Private)

Dear Governor

I understand that the Interior Department ticket for Iowa politics is Warren for the short term & Harlan for the long term. I am told, I know not how much truth there may be in the report, that all the applic [aions?] to that end are to be brought to bear that the patronage of that department can bring.

Sells is now in Iowa in aid of Harlans election. I do not know whether his son Wm. H. is there or in the Indian country where, it is reported to me he has a trading post & two or three contracts.

Warren has drawn one months pay as minister to Goutumola some \$700 or \$800, as I was told by Gen. Cowie [?] who paid it to him as a clerk in the 5th Auditors office.

About one half of Mount Pleasant is in the Interior Department & all at work rallying the Methodists to the support of Harlan.

Darwin⁶⁹ was notified before I left Burlington that a Judgeship in Washington on Dec — was open for him, he might select which he pleased. Still, there is no telling what Darwin may do or who he may vote for.

Do not use this or mention of any of these facts as coming from me, as it is written in strict confidence & to put you on your guard. You cant' labor too hard between this & the election

Yours truly

J. W. Grimes

(Private)

Washington Dec 16, 1865

Dr Gov.

The Paymaster of the Army told Wilson today that he had yesterday given leave of absence to two Paymasters at Mr. Harlans request viz. T. H. Stanton of Washington & Wm. Penn Clark of Iowa City. They are to go to Iowa to assist the Genl. Assembly to elect Senators. I presume you will see at Des Moines a swarm of fellows from the Interior when the legislature makes ready to hear testimony to what they denominate the sentiment of Washington on the subject of the senatorial election.

Tell me what you think of the contest as it now stands Have your chances lessened any?

Yours truly

J. W. Grimes

(Private)

Dr Gov.

I enclose you a letter of Cowie to show you what is said in Washington.

It really does not seem to me that Harlan would agree to this arrangement. It would be asking a little too much to take two senators from our town & another from an adjoining County.

If it were necessary to have a military hero one *could* be got who was not so innocent of rebel blood as W[arren] is.

Yours truly

J. W. Grimes

⁶⁹Charles Ben Darwin of Burlington, a member of the 11th general assembly.

My dear Sir

I had not intended to go to the Convention and cant' very well go for divers reasons; But you ought to go I would say. At any rate I can see no reason why you should not go & your presence under some circumstances might be of importance I do not anticipate any trouble about the platform. So far as I know there is great unanimity of opinion on that subject in this part of the state. For my own part, I am inclined to make sure that the rebellion is closed out, which can only be done by united council [?] action, before I am willing to see the party split to pieces by new forceful, or ——— issues. Hence the less said in the platform the better, let it be fealty [?] to the government, support of the administration, economy in expenditures, for cardinal principles & all will be well.

I have inquired of many men whom I have casually met who was to be senator in place of Mr. Harlan & in every instance the response has been Gov. K- Is that the conclusion at which you have arrived? Indeed, most of those with whom I have conversed say that no one can make a show of a contest. But you have taken a close view of the field doubtless & know far better than I possibly can what the prospects are.

Yours truly

J. W. Grimes

[S. J. Kirkwood]

(Private)

United States Senate Chamber,
Washington, Jany 2 1866

Dr Gov.

Yours of the 29th ultimo is at hand. I had no idea that Rich⁷⁰ had gone to Iowa until I recd. your letter & thought he was in Philada. The delegation in Cong. stand about this way. All are against Harlan. All but Kasson were for you when last heard from, but each one of them has a hankering for the place himself & fancies that in some event or other he may be the possible man. But no one of them gives attention to any ambitions aspiration & when they left here all

⁷⁰Jacob. Rich.

professed to be friendly to you with the exception before stated, though no one of them cares to speak very loud on the subject on account of the tremendous patronage of the Interior Department.

It is amusing to read the Iowa Harlan newspapers. So far from the Department being forced upon him, he sought it & he desired me to urge his appointment upon the Presdt. I did so urged every possible reason for it & it was to me that the Presdt. made the promise that he should be appointed. It was when I communicated to him the Presdts. reply that he told me he & his friends would support you for his successor. I am now reluctantly constrained to believe that he never intended to do so & that he only desired a place in the cabinet in order to strengthen himself for a re-election by its patronage. There are divers facts all tending to draw me to this conclusion. I confess myself deceived in Harlan. I always thought him a straight forward, guileless man of fair ability & of respectable standing, who, though he might not do any extraordinarily wise things, would not do any very foolish things. He is now the topic of conversation here. He has bought & *paid* \$30,000 for a house, it has not cost less than \$12,000 to 15,000 to furnish it & it will cost \$20,000 a year to support it. Every one is asking how Harlan became rich so suddenly & the inquiry is accompanied by all sorts of grimaces, winks, nods & gestures. But all these things & many others you have heard from others.

The idea that is attempted to be propogated that he is not a candidate from choice but is made such by his friends is the worst nonsense in the world. You of course understood that. It is due to Harlan that I should say that I do not believe him, notwithstanding all that is said about him here just now, to be a dishonest man. In my opinion his wife, has been, playing the fool & betraying him into follies that his own judgement must condemn. I hear it said that she has been speculating with cotton agents & as their partner & I am inclined to think it to be so. Sell has been here four or five weeks but carefully avoided me. His son is deeply interested in Indian Contracts in his superintendency it is charged & not denied. Cooley [?] professes to have insisted that he

should withdraw from the partnership, but he is doubtless as much interested as ever. I think Wilson takes the same view that you do. I shall show him your letter when you return.

Yours truly

J. W. Grimes

United States Senate Chamber.
Washington, Jan'y 7, 1866

Dear Governor

Wilson has just returned to Washington & I have handed him your letter to read. He has no idea of being a candidate against you & authorized me to say so to you. All of the members in Cong. from Iowa so far as I can learn are of the opinion that Harlan ought not to be a candidate and I have had no hesitation in saying always that good faith if nothing else should restrain him.

The pressure in his behalf proceeds from the patronage, present & prospective of the Interior Department and is used by Indian agents, Indian contractors, office holders & office seekers of one kind & another. The letters we see published in Iowa papers giving an account of the public demand that he should be returned to the Senate proceed from two or three clerks in his employ & are laughed at here as being most excellent jokes.

You have got a difficult task on your hands to overcome all the patronage & promises & threats & importunities of the Interior Department. About as hypercritical a pretence as I ever knew is that Mr. Harlan is indifferent on the subject & is only urged by his friends. Why he is moving Heaven & Earth & has been ever since he went into the cabinet, though he told me when, I went at his instance to urge the Presdt. to appoint him Secy. that he should support you & that his friends would do likewise, as his successor. I am *now* convinced that he only desired to go into the cabinet in order to strengthen himself for a re-election. No man regrets this *imbroglio* more than I do. I advised Harlan not to seek a place in the cabinet & told him that he could be re-elected without difficulty. He thought differently & wanted to go into the cabinet. Every man in the delegation went at his desire &

urged the Presdt. to make him Secty. of the Interior. Then it was that he wrote you the letter pledging himself to support you. I cant' account for his conduct; I only know that his violation of faith cant' justify & shant be used as justifying perfidy on my part.

Yours truly
J. W. Grimes

(Private)
Washington Dec. 24, 1867

Dr Kirkwood

Yours enclosing pension papers has come duly to hand. I will present them when Cong. again assembles & will deliver your message to Mr Van Winkle.

Dr. Saunders of Davenport started to Iowa to night as the emmissary to the Iowa candidate for the Presidency to so arrange matters as to secure the vote of our state to him. His pretensions are laughed at here for really I do not think he stands as well as he did three years ago, for his capacity as an administrator had not then been tested & he had not therefore made himself ridiculous: but I suppose he will manage to secure the vote of Iowa in the convention in order to strengthen himself for ulterior purposes. I suppose a part of the program is to see that Rich is beaten for State printer.

Yours truly
J. W. Grimes

[Copy]

. . . The Germans are the greatest soldiers & the French the greatest braggarts & lairs in the world. Do not delude yourself with the idea that there is a Republic in France or that there ever will be. Gambetta government is the purest despotism in the world, but it is the only form of government suitable to France. The people of Gascony & Lanquedoc have made no intellectual progress in the last thousand years. They are exactly what they were, though relatively not near so good & enlightened as in the time of Charles Martel. The whole Country is demoralized—there is but little virtue among

either men or women & they need a "discipline" as much as Sodom did, & they are getting it.

Mrs. Grimes & Mary desires to be kindly remembered to you & to Mrs. Pike & to all other friends who may be near you.

I have no doubt that the schooners are very fast making us both rich. I am so charmed at the probability of such a Consummation that I am not only willing but desirous to sell out my interest in them.

Poor Porter seems to have come to terrible grief. He ought & I presume does curse the man who invented writing. He will stand but a poor chance now with Grant, Butler, Banks, all of the staff & half of the line against him, & the whole partizan press who will never forgive him for unveiling their gods in such a profane manner. My address is Care of Alex. S. Petrie & Co. 11 Old Broad St. London England.

Your friend

J. W. Grimes

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

A HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Because of its public displays of historic materials, the historical museum is probably one of the most widely known of the activities of the department. Yet good as these collections and exhibits are, the department would like to make them show even more faithfully and completely the history of our Iowa mid-west. To accomplish this objective the department must obtain additional specimens and representative objects in a number of fields still incomplete. A few of these fields are indicated below.

One of the largest sections of publicly displayed materials in the department consist of Indian items, from the mound builders to the Indian of our later era. The museum would like to obtain additional pottery and other artifacts from the pre-historic mound builders' culture. It would appreciate information of the discovery of new mounds whenever such are located. Of the later period, items in common use among the Indian tribes before the intrusion of the white man are wanted in a few instances, as well as materials used in the Indian trade business.

In the pioneer and middle periods of our own civil history field, tools and equipment of the blacksmith shop are sought, together with the tools of other home manufacturers, such as the gunsmith, the wheelwright, and the mill operator. As a supplement to our spinning wheels and hand looms, and with the object of preparing a room or series of displays to show the domestic and industrial arts of early times, the department is seeking good specimens of homespun clothing, linsey-woolsey, or other fabrics spun and woven for Iowa men, women, and children. "Store" clothes of men and boys of the last half of the 19th century are desired too. At present certain kitchen and table utensils of common use would be

welcomed to supplement a few gaps in these displays. Pioneer housekeeping equipment is wanted too.

The department believes that a presentation to the state through this department of significant and illustrative historical materials for museum display enhances the value of the object many fold by making its story available to the countless number of visitors who annually visit the building in Des Moines.

SOME MUSEUM ACCESSIONS

Among some of the recent acquisitions of the past quarter worthy of note is the fully complete hand loom given the department by Mr. Clem Hootman and his sister, Mrs. Mary H. Bonnett, of Keosauqua, Iowa. Long in use in Van Buren County before the turn of the century, this loom will shortly be placed on exhibit in the department. Two hand sod corn planters from John and William Powell, of Eddyville, Iowa, and another hand corn planter of a later date, from Dr. S. H. Bauman, of Birmingham, Iowa, have also been received to add to the display of agricultural implements and materials.

Additional articles, including several photograph albums and scrap books of clippings relating to Admiral George Collier Remey and to Charles Mason, first Chief Justice of Iowa, have been received from the son and grandson, Charles Mason Remey, of Washington, D. C.

MEMORIAL OBSERVANCES

Two memorial observances in the department building this past quarter were occasions for presentations to the department.

On November 23, 1940, the Iowa Society of the Descendants of the Mayflower, in celebrating the 320 anniversary of the signing of the Mayflower Compact, presented a model of the Mayflower to the department, especially for the genealogical section of the historical library. Mrs. Charles H. Humphryes, Governor of the Iowa Society presented the ship, and Curator Williams accepted.

On December 27, 1940, the Kinsman Woman's Relief Corps, No. 24, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, presented a large three by four foot bronze plaque in honor of the

Kinsman Post, No. 7, of the G. A. R. Inscribed on the tablet now hung in the corridor of the department are the names of the charter members and post commanders of the post.

ERATA

In the list of "Non-Personal Manuscripts" found on pages 508, 509, of the October issues of the Annals, the word "Blackhawk" should be stricken, it having crept in by error.

In the article prepared by John Thompson, "Early Horseless Carriage Days in Iowa," appearing in the same issue, the author refers to the auto driven by Hal Wells in the 1913 cross Iowa race as a "Velie Special." We are indebted to Mr. Ernest Spaulding of Grinnell for the information that the credit should have been given to the Spaulding Motor Car, manufactured by the Spaulding Motor Car Company of Grinnell, Iowa.

NOTABLE DEATHS

RANSOM JAMES BIXBY, former state legislator and agriculturalist, died in Edgewood, Iowa, November 18, 1940. The son of Reverend and Mrs. Newell W. Bixby, pioneer settlers in Iowa in 1847, R. J. Bixby was born on a farm near Edgewood, Iowa, March 29, 1854. After an early education he taught school, then attended Wilton College, in Wilton, Iowa, then resumed teaching, becoming principal of the Edgewood schools. He shortly entered the mercantile business, later the drug business, and later still retired to invest in and to manage farms, breed sheep and cattle. Actively identified with the Republican party in the county, and several times chairman of the county committee, he was elected to the state legislature as a representative from Delaware County, serving two terms from 1903-1907.

When an ice cave was discovered on his farm, Mr. Bixby made the 84 acre area into a park, which subsequently, in 1926, became the Bixby State Park when taken over by the Iowa State Conservation Commission. Long prominent in church work, he was first a member of the Baptist church, and later when that church was discontinued in Edgewood, became a member of the Congregational Church.

JOHN CALVIN FLENNIKEN, former state legislator, died in Strawberry Point, Sunday, July 14, 1940. Born in Millville, Iowa, August 17, 1862, the son of Wallace and Gertrude Flenniken, he was educated in the public schools of Elkader and taught the jewelry trade by his stepfather, Capt. A. B. Morland. He later owned and operated jewelry stores in Traer and Strawberry Point. From 1908 to 1912, he was mayor of the latter town.

Elected to the 29th General Assembly, he was re-elected to the succeeding session. Among other measures sponsored by him was the primary election law.

DR. THOMAS V. GOLDEN, physician, died in Des Moines, November 21, 1940, at the age of fifty-three. Trained in the Creighton University medical school, Omaha, Nebraska, he practiced medicine in Creston, Iowa, twenty years before appointment as physician and psychiatrist at the Iowa State Hospital for the Insane at Clarinda in 1932. During the World War he was a Major in the medical corps of the 90th division, seeing service in France.

JOHN H. HENDERSON, Judge, lawyer, and former state official, died in Orange, California, September 30, 1940. The son of Col. and Mrs. P. P. Henderson, he was born on a farm in Warren County, September 16,

1848, near where the town of Ackworth now stands. He was reportedly the first white child born in the county after it was organized.

Educated in the public schools and in Central College, later Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, he was admitted to the bar in 1872. Elected a Circuit Court Judge in 1885, he was elected a District Court Judge in 1886 when the Circuit Court system was abolished. He was re-elected to the district court in 1890 and again in 1894. Two years later he resigned to re-enter private practice with his son Frank P. Henderson. A member of the school board of Indianola, he was also a member, from 1869 to 1940, and for a long time the secretary, of the board of trustees of Simpson College. In 1896 he was elected president of the Iowa State Bar Association.

In 1911 he withdrew from private practice to become Commerce Counsel to the Iowa State Railroad Commission. With the exception of 1927-28 he held this position continuously from 1911 to 1935.

L. STEPHEN HILL, business and government official, died in Des Moines, October 3, 1940. Born on a farm near Creston, Iowa, September 20, 1877, and spending his early boyhood in southern Iowa and eastern Kansas, he entered the printing trade as an apprentice in Muscatine, Iowa. Coming to Des Moines about 1890, and continuing in the printing business, he shortly thereafter helped to organize the American Lithograph Company; he was president of the firm at the time of his death.

Long prominent in the Democratic party, a member of the Polk County Democratic Committee for thirty years, and chairman at one time, serving also on the state central committee of that party, he was at various times the party's candidate for elective office. On February 1, 1934, he was appointed Postmaster of the Des Moines office, and in April of 1940, appointed to the permanent position under the recent postal civil service law order. In July, 1935, he was appointed the first administrator in Iowa of the WPA, a position he retained with success until resigning in late 1936.

PERRY C. HOLDOEGEL, telephone company executive and former state legislator, died in Rockwell City, Iowa, July 2, 1940. Born on a farm near Woodbine, Iowa, September 7, 1869, he led a varied career as an apprentice brick mason, printer, clerk in a dry goods store, and teacher, before engaging in the telephone business. As a teacher in the public schools for fourteen years, he served seven as superintendent of the Rockwell City schools, as well as maintaining a connection with the Calhoun County Normal School. He is credited with establishing Iowa's first rural telephone line, in 1893, between Logan and Missouri Valley. As organizer and head of the Central Mutual Telephone Co. of Rockwell City, he later disposed of this interest to the Iowa Continental Telephone Co., remaining as its manager until 1931. He also had large farming and banking interests.

A Republican, and at one time secretary, and chairman, of the Calhoun County Republican Committee, he served the Calhoun-Webster district in the state senate from 1917-1925.

HERBERT A. HUFF, former state legislator and lawyer, died in Springfield, Nebraska, November 10, 1940. The son of Henry L. Huff, he was born in Eldora, Iowa, December 5, 1874, and educated in the town high school and in Grinnell College, graduating in the class of 1897.

Elected to the state legislature in 1910 from Hardin County, he served the one term. After three years as assistant attorney general, 1923-26, he removed to Chicago, Illinois.

